



Hayek older, wiser mom

pg 26



EASY MONEY WEEKDAYS @ 8:13, 12:13 & 4:13

Waterfront campus the BOMA

GREEN INITIATIVE Give Nova Scotia Community College's Waterfront Campus an A for environmental friendliness.

The Dartmouth-based institution has received Level 4 certification for the Building Owner and Manager's Association Building Environmental Standard test. It's the only building in the province to achieve the rating — and its 93 point score is the best total for any BOMA test in the country so far.

The campus underwent energy and water audits and showed plans and/or policies designed to reduce resource consumption. A third party assessor then determined whether the building met BOMA test standards, and if so, at which level.

METRO HALIFAX

Local pg 2

Body found suspicious

Movies pg 14



Cyrus' Canada connection

Music pg 18

Thunderheist heads on tour



Hairspray Travolta — eat your heart out



Brooklyn Pulver stars as Tracy Turnblad in a touring production of the Tony-award winning musical Hairspray at the Metro Centre Thursday night. The winner of eight 2003 Tony Awards, Hairspray wrapped its fifth and final season on Broadway in January.

Harper meets his water loo

BATHROOM BREAK Prime Minister Stephen Harper's carefully cultivated image with the international media took a bit of a flushing Thursday.

After days of pounding the drums on international television, talking up the healthy state of Canadian banks and making the case for a Canadian economic rebound, Harper became the talk of the G20 summit when he missed the official group summit photo.

The immediate verdict in the British press? Harper was in the bathroom.

The prime minister was slated to stand on the far right flank of the summit picture, next to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. But he was a no-show.

An aide later explained he was busy being briefed on the progress of the conference by officials.

But within hours, it had flared into a bit of an international story.

The BBC reported Harper was unable to pose because he was "in the loo."

In the U.S., the TV show Good Morning America said Harper had been in the bathroom and nobody noticed. Even the staid Wall Street Journal mentioned the incident on its economics blog.

The Prime Minister's Office went on the defensive. Aides got into a spat with the BBC and were at pains to explain away any embarrassment.

In Ottawa, NDP MP Thomas Mulcair poked fun at Harper's absence during the leaders' photo op. "The prime minister missed the recession so there's no great surprise that he also missed this photo op," Mulcair said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Clarke defended

Premier rejects minister's resignation over prisoner release

PAUL MCLEOD paul.mcleod@metronews.ca



Justice Minister Cecil Clarke offered his resignation Wednesday night after another prisoner was mistakenly released, but Premier Rodney MacDonald did not accept it.

"He does a tremendous job," MacDonald told reporters Thursday after the government's weekly cabinet meeting. "I would never accept (his resignation)."

On Wednesday, Clarke revealed Ryan Jessop, 22, was released from court when he should have been sent back to prison. Jessop, who

"He does a tremendous job. I would never accept (his resignation)."

Premier Rodney MacDonald

still hasn't been found, faces charges including possession of a weapon, uttering threats and extortion.

On Monday, the department realized it had mistakenly released another violent offender six days earlier. That man, Chancellor Faulkner, turned himself in Wednesday.

MacDonald called the releases unacceptable, but said he stands by Clarke.

"The minister's record is one that the government is

very proud of," MacDoanld said.

But Liberal critic Michel Samson said his calls for Clarke to step down as minister have been vindicated.

"Now that he's actually publicly acknowledged he's offered his resignation, Cecil Clarke is now a lame duck minister who lacks the legitimacy to continue leading the department of justice," he said.

Samson said Clarke picked needless battles with

employees and failed to act on changes to prevent mistaken releases. He also suggested the reason the premier is keeping Clarke on is because the Tories have only one backbencher.

"The changes were there for what needed to take place to avoid these situations," Samson said. "Cecil was unable to have those changes implemented and now must live with the consequences of that inaction."

Clarke brushed off Samson's attacks as political posturing. He said his department is working to fix the mistakes and investigating what went wrong with the releases.

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City officials are advising the public that outdoor grass fields, including ball diamonds and sport fields, remain closed for the season. Official opening dates haven't been determined. Use of HRM fields when closed can result in fines and/or loss of privileges. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Day of Dylan at King's College

The University of King's College is screening *No Direction Home*, the Martin Scorsese documentary about Bob Dylan, followed by a night of Dylan tunes at the Wardroom Friday to celebrate its new Dylan lecture, which takes place Friday morning by Dr. Angus Johnston. The film is at 3:30 p.m. and music from 7:30 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

Body sent for post-mortem

RCMP hoping to get ID of man in North Preston homicide probe

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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RCMP confirmed Thursday the body found near North Preston is that of a man, and it is now a homicide investigation.

The body was found Wednesday afternoon near where Sergei Kostin's burned-out taxi was discovered in January. Police determined the gender but have not yet identified the body.

By Thursday morning, the body was still where it was found as investigators took aerial photos.

RCMP Cpl. Joe Taplin said the medical examiner visited the scene Thursday, the body was removed and an autopsy will be conducted today. He said an identification should be made after the autopsy.

"We believe the body has been there for a while," Taplin said.

Kostin picked up a fare on Gaston Road in Dartmouth on Jan. 17 and has-



An RCMP forensic identification officer investigates a crime scene Thursday on Upper Governor Road in North Preston after the body of a man was found Wednesday. RCMP have not identified the body but are treating it as a homicide.

n't been seen since. Three days after his disappearance, Kostin's burned taxi was found in North Preston.

The 40-year-old from the Ukraine has a wife and two children in his homeland.

Police have been search-

ing the area since January, but officers discovered the body laying about 20 feet from Upper Governor Road on Wednesday at

4:30 p.m. They want to speak with two males who are believed to have been his final customers of the day.

\$16M price tag to ship sub to B.C.

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Sixteen-million dollars — that's the estimated cost of shipping the HMCS Chicoutimi to B.C.

The submarine was carted up and moved out of Halifax this week, but Irving is still waiting for a ruling on its lawsuit.

Irving lost the maintenance contract for the four Victoria-class submarines to a collection of B.C. companies. Irving took the case to the Federal Court of Appeal where it was heard in February.

"The judges have reserved their decision and no ruling has been made at this time," Mary Keith, a

spokeswoman for Irving Shipyards, wrote in an email.

"We continue to believe that submarines that are going to operate from Halifax should be maintained in Halifax.

Keep the 200 jobs at home in Nova Scotia."

She said it doesn't make sense to spend an estimated \$16 million to

transport the crippled submarine to B.C. and then back again.

"We have the skilled people to do the job right next door," she said.

Navy spokesman David Martin wouldn't comment on the cost of shipping out the Chicoutimi since the operation is being subcontracted to Dockwise Inc.

Checkpoint Sticky situation



A Halifax Regional Police officer checks a vehicle Thursday for a current inspection sticker during a stop on Connaught Avenue in Halifax. Police checked more than 3,000 vehicles and issued 73 tickets, including 47 for expired inspection stickers.

Nova Scotia lags in tax friendliness

STUDY Nova Scotia "barely gets a passing grade" when it comes to tax friendliness toward small business, according to a study released Thursday by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

The federation's Small Business Provincial Tax Index ranks Nova Scotia third from the bottom among Canadian provinces, ahead of only Ontario and Quebec.

On a ranking system of zero to 10 and based off numbers from the end of last year, Nova Scotia scored a 5.08. Alberta was first at 7.98, with Quebec last at 4.02. **METRO HALIFAX**

News in brief

NEW GLASGOW A 22-year-old New Glasgow man will spend at least 17 years behind bars for his role in the "barbaric" second-degree murder of Bruce Philip Smith. Trevor Daniel Broderick will have to serve at least 17 years of a life sentence before he's eligible to apply for parole, Justice Edward Scanlan ruled Wednesday in Pictou Supreme Court.

BAGS The countdown is on before you will have to pay for plastic grocery bags at one local chain. Loblaw issued a news release yesterday to remind people that starting on April 22, all of its stores across Atlantic Canada will charge five cents for plastic shopping bags.

DARTMOUTH Three teenage males robbed a 16-year-old male of video games and an iPod before fleeing on foot Wednesday night on Brookdale Crescent in Dartmouth. The victim was not injured. **METRO HALIFAX**

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Stephen Harper touts Canada's influence at the closing of the G20 summit at metronews.ca/canada
Blogs Style columnist Kenya Hunt features a best-dressed list as chosen by Kate Moss



Justice Minister's Awards handed out

Cecil Clarke presented the inaugural Justice Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention Thursday in Halifax. Winners included Rebecca Moore, who took the youth award, and Halifax Regional Police officer Const. Randy Wood for organizing block parties and bringing residents and landlords together. **METRO HALIFAX**

Government pension 'in trouble'

Current employees will see contribution levels rise to cover for stock market crash

PAUL MCLEOD

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Government employees are going to have to pay more to support the pensions of their retired colleagues.

The government is upping member contributions to the Public Service Superannuation Plan because it has a \$1.65-billion unfunded liability.

That's \$350 million more

than just four months ago. Thursday the government announced employees will have to increase their contributions by about 1 to 1.3 per cent, which the government will match.

For someone making \$40,000 per year, that means an extra \$400 in payments. Someone making \$65,000 would pay an extra \$700.

But that won't be enough. More changes will have to come, according to

"The fund is in trouble. Pension plans right across the country are all down this year."

Finance Minister Jamie Muir

Finance Minister Jamie Muir. They could include more payments or fewer benefits.

"The fund is in trouble. Pension plans right across the country are all down this year," Muir said.

"What's being done to-

day is not sufficient to protect the integrity of the fund ... this was seen to be a reasonable first step to try to solve the problem."

Muir said his department and unions would be meeting to discuss other changes. But he said he did-

n't know what they would be or whether they would take place this year or next.

The fund is currently only 64.8 per cent funded, down from 72 per cent in December. The crash of the stock market caused the pension to take a major hit.

There are about 14,000 retirees drawing from the pension fund, with about 16,000 employees paying into it.

"We should be doing more right away," Muir

said. "How far it needs to go will be a subject of discussion."

Nova Scotia Government Employees Union president Joan Jessome responded by saying the union was "very concerned about the government's failure to develop a long-term strategy" for the pension. The union said the government had not been working with the union on a long-term approach, despite advance warning of the problems.

Police seek a few good men, women

RECRUITS If you've ever dreamed of being a police recruit, now is your big chance.

Halifax Regional Police will again be hosting their annual Discover

Info

• Citizens can apply at www.halifax.ca/police/discoverHRP.html or call 490-1534 for more information.

sessions and other exercises.

The program is targeted at people who are interested in pursuing a career in policing. Applicants must be between 19 and 29 years old and have no criminal record.

Discover HRP is held at Northbrook School in Dartmouth from July 13 to 17. There is no cost to participate but registration is limited.

METRO HALIFAX

Tall Ships calls for volunteers

JOHN TATTIRIE
for Metro Halifax

EVENT Pirates and captains clashed at the kickoff of Tall Ships 2009 Thursday, with organizers announcing recession-fighting prices and calling for more volunteers.

Up to 50 ships will sail into Halifax this summer for the July 16 to 20 waterfront festival. The ships will also visit ports around Nova Scotia as the festival unrolls provincewide until Aug. 1.

The press conference at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic was interrupted by a sword fight between arch rivals Captain John Loyal and the pirate Roger Mack. The two will spar with each other in a battle for the boardwalk throughout the festival.

"We are 104 days away," said spokeswoman Leanne Strathdee. "Tall ship gatherings in Nova Scotia have become a must for visitors from near and far. Tall ships under sail simply make history come alive."

Strathdee said new streamlining measures will make boarding ships faster for advance-ticket holders. The festival has about 750 volunteers and needs 250



Pirate Roger Mack and Captain John Loyal get into fisticuffs at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic Thursday as the price of tickets for Tall Ships 2009 was announced.

more, mainly for "marine security" positions on the waterfront.

The summer sail party will be comprised of ships from Brazil, France, the Netherlands, Uruguay, Germany, Barbados, the U.K., Bermuda and the U.S., making it one of the largest tall ships gathering in North America in a decade, organizers said.

After the Parade of Sail in Halifax, some of the ships will head to Lunenburg,

Port Hawkesbury, Louisbourg, Sydney, Pictou and Pugwash.

"The boardwalk and the spectacular views are open and free to everyone," said Colin MacLean, president of the Waterfront Development Corporation.

Day passes range from \$10 for a single ticket to \$20 for a family pass. Weekend passes, senior and group rates are also available.

Go to Tallshipsnovascotia.com.

Farming losses may impact this year's crop

AGRICULTURE Farmers faced with flooded crops following heavy rains last summer can expect no immediate rebound from the losses they were forced to incur, says the president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Richard Melvin said advance payments accessed by the province through the AgriStability fund have helped alleviate the cash-flow crunch faced by farmers.

But Melvin said many farmers will still have to absorb a loss and that doesn't set the industry up well for this growing season.

"When they look forward to spring they'll be asking very tough questions about whether they can afford to plant crop or whether they should plant crop," Melvin said from his Canning, Kings County

Crop damage

• Upward of 50 to 60 per cent of all crops suffered partial or complete damage — by far the worst conditions experienced in the province.

farm.

He said it's a very serious situation because many of the farms affected, including Hanks Farm Market in Millville, have been family operations for decades, producing products for Nova Scotians and markets across the country and the continent.

"We really need them to stay in business," Melvin said.

Fields were transformed into ponds last August after rain completely saturated farmers' fields to the point where vegetables began to rot. **CAPE BRETON POST**

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Weekend, April 3-5, 2009

4

local

The Halifax regional science fair runs Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Gordon Bell Building in Dartmouth, with 21 schools from HRM represented. **METRO HALIFAX**



George Pothitos, Neptune Theatre's new artistic director, said the idea of hope ties the plays together for the 2009-10 season.

Hope-filled season

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax



2009-10 Neptune Theatre lineup

- The Game of Love and Chance, Sept. 22 – Oct. 18
 - No Great Mischief, Oct. 27 – Nov. 15
 - A Christmas Carol: the Musical, Nov. 28 – Jan. 3
 - Sexy Laundry, Jan. 19 – Feb. 14
 - Rabbit Hole, March 2 – 28
 - Peter Pan, April 13 – May 30
- For the Studio schedule, visit Neptunetheatre.com.

Captain Hook, Tiny Tim and Jesus Christ are warming up backstage to star in Neptune's 2009-10 season.

George Pothitos, Neptune Theatre's new artistic director, said the common theme for next year's schedule is hope. The main stage will kick off with Marivaux's French classic *The Game of Love and Chance*, followed by Alistair MacLeod's *No Great Mischief*, *Sexy Laundry*, *Rabbit Hole* and the musical fantasy *Peter Pan*.

"I didn't set out to choose a theme. I just picked good plays," Pothitos said at yesterday's unveiling. "I guess subliminally, because life is difficult for everyone with the economy, I was looking for hope as I read the plays."

He said the most hopeful play is the holiday play, A

Christmas Carol: The Musical.

"It presents us with good people and unhappy people and what I love about it is it tells us if you've chosen a path in life, it's never too late to change it."

Pothitos read a huge number of scripts, including 20 new ones, before selecting his first Neptune season.

Neptune also unveiled its Studio season, highlighted by Rick Miller's one-man show, *Bigger Than Jesus*. Halifax actress Jackie Torrens will star with Kathryn MacLellan in Daniel MacIvor's *A Beautiful View*,

which tells of the pair's long relationship.

"It's an adventure for me. I'll find something and become an explorer following it through," Pothitos said of the dramatic lineup. "A patron can actually come to everything and experience the best of theatre."

A packed theatre was on hand for the launch. The biggest reactions came for *Peter Pan* and *No Great Mischief*. *No Great Mischief* is a stage adaptation of MacLeod's award-winning novel following the MacDonald clan's journey from Scotland to Cape Breton.

New cancer website allows researchers to collaborate

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca



The largest co-operation effort among cancer researchers in the region was launched Wednesday.

The Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute will provide a forum for scientists in Halifax to collaborate on their work. It isn't a physical building, but a website and monthly seminars for scientists to learn what research is being done in the area.

"We hope that providing membership in the institute will encourage people

to look at the other activities going on and to encourage people to work together," said Mark Bernstein, director of the new institute.

"As the institute develops, we expect also to be providing some assistance with time-consuming (process of getting) a grant."

Cancer research in Halifax ignited about a decade ago when Beatrice Hunter left \$12.5 million to the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in her will. The money was donated in the memory of her parents: Her father, Owen Cameron, was a doctor in River John in Pictou County.

Local play blessed by big screen

THEATRE A Dartmouth playwright's tale of an atheist who becomes a religious icon when she fakes the image of Jesus on the side of a donut shop is being adapted for the big screen. Josh MacDonald's *Halo* is in production with Les Productions Colin Neale and Moving Films and will be shot in and around Halifax.

MacDonald's comedy is set in the fictitious small town of Nately, Nova Scotia. Casey is desperate to get out of her pious and poor hometown and fakes the image in a bid to escape. Things get out of control when even Casey's father starts to believe it's a sign.

METRO HALIFAX

Power flows through provinces

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams is labelling "historic" an agreement to sell electricity directly through Quebec and into the North American power grid. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

5

Canada

Worst is over: Harper

\$40B planned for economy as G20 summit ends

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, sounding one of his cheeriest notes since the economic crisis began, said Thursday he believes the worst financial instability is over and that he expects to see more positive news in coming months.

The comments were notably upbeat, given that Harper has been warning for months that the economy would keep deteriorating amid rising joblessness and slumping production.

"The worst aspects of instability, I do believe, are behind us. Stability is different from recovery. We're seeing a significant degree of stability," he told reporters at the conclusion of this week's G20 summit in London.

"I'm optimistic that, as these measures kick in, as fiscal and economic measures kick in, we'll begin to see more positive news," he said.

The Canadian government plans to spend \$40 billion over the next two years to kick-start the economy.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at a news conference after the G20 summit at the ExCel centre, in east London. Ottawa plans to spend \$40 billion to kick-start the economy.

Gross domestic product data released Monday showed that Canada could well be heading for its worst quarter of economic contraction on record.

Harper said the data had matched market expectations.

"What I continue to note is that with all of our difficulties, Canada nevertheless remains above many

of the trend lines," he said, citing the country's sound banking system, strong government balance sheets and low debt levels.

"I don't want to say the downward slide has stopped but there are some positive signs in the news. I think most agree we're going to continue to see a few more months of slowdown," he said.

Harper said the summit had taken measures that should give comfort and confidence to markets. He also noted that the financial system is more stable than it was at the last summit of Group of 20 leading nations summit in November, when, he said, the world economy was in a dangerous free fall.

REUTERS

Al Jazeera seeks TV airwaves

TELEVISION It was once condemned as "propaganda" by former U.S. secretary of defence Donald Rumsfeld. It's been slammed by Jewish groups for airing anti-Semitic views. And now Al Jazeera wants to air on a television near you.

Tony Burman, the Canadian who is managing director of the Al Jazeera Network knows he's fighting against some history and stereotypes as he seeks regulatory approval to get

Application

- The Qatar-based network has applied to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, using Ethnic Channels Group, a Toronto carrier, as its sponsor.

the broadcaster's English service on Canadian airwaves.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LABOUR Ottawa should play a role in restructuring talks between AbitibiBowater and its lenders and help prevent the loss of up to 12,000 Canadian jobs, the company's main union said on Thursday. The Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP) accused the federal government of paying scant attention to the woes of the forestry sector.

POLLUTION An Alberta court

slapped Suncor Energy Inc. and a contractor it hired with more than \$1 million in fines Thursday for environmental infractions at the company's northern Alberta oil sands operations. Suncor, Canada's No. 2 oil sands producer, will pay \$675,000 for failing to install pollution control equipment at its Firebag steam-driven oil sands operation near Fort McMurray, Alta.

REUTERS

'Deep concern' over proposed law: Officials

WOMEN'S RIGHTS Canadian officials called in Afghanistan's ambassador to express "deep concern" over a law that would make it illegal for Shiite women to refuse to have sex with their husbands.

Omar Samad, the Afghan ambassador in Ottawa, was summoned to the meeting Wednesday to hear Canadian fears that the law would "severely restrict the rights" of women.

"We have informed the Afghan government of the damaging effect that the law could have and we pointed out that across the country, Canadians are following the issue closely," the foreign affairs department said yesterday in a statement.

"Promoting and protecting human rights for all Afghans is a core element of Canada's engagement in Afghanistan. Afghans expect their government to

Backlash

- News of the law has sparked outcry on Parliament Hill and caused consternation among federal officials who have defended Canada's Afghan mission on the grounds that it will bring new freedoms to Afghan women. The proposed law would allegedly forbid Shiite women to leave their homes without permission of their husbands or gain custody of their children.

promote and protect their human rights," it said.

Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada defended the progress made by women in his country after the meeting. He said the Afghan government is examining the law and will have no comment for now.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE COVERAGE, PG 6

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Italian man allegedly decapitated wife for online chatting
A man charged with slicing off his wife's head with a boxcutter told police on the island of Sicily he was jealous because she spent so much time sending messages on the Internet, Italian media reported Thursday. He allegedly told police he was convinced that his wife was cheating on him with an Internet lover. **REUTERS**

World



Wife ditches Mr. Clean

A German woman has divorced her husband because she was fed up with him cleaning all the time. German media reported the wife got through 15 years of marriage putting up with the man's penchant for doing household chores, tidying up and rearranging the furniture. But she ran out of patience when he knocked down and rebuilt a wall at their home when it got dirty, a judge said Thursday. **REUTERS**

G20 promises \$1.1 trillion in aid

Leaders say measures to fight crisis will boost world output by 4% by end of 2010

World leaders clinched a \$1.1-trillion US deal on Thursday to combat the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and said financial rules would be tightened to stop it happening again.

U.S. President Barack Obama declared it a "turning point" for the world economy, even though he had won no promises for more government spending to combat a deepening world recession.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy celebrated the waning of the Anglo-Saxon model of lightly regulated capitalism, which many blame for excess that has triggered the crisis.

G20 leaders from the top developed and emerging



U.S. President Barack Obama laughs with Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, centre, and Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev as they pose for a photo at the London G20 summit Thursday.

economies ticked off a raft of actions on politically sensitive topics at the summit in London, such as new rules on bonuses and imposing oversight on

large hedge funds and on credit-rating agencies.

The \$1.1 trillion available through the International Monetary Fund and other institutions included

\$250 billion of IMF reserve units called Special Drawing Rights. In addition, the IMF would see its own resources tripled, with up to \$500 billion of new funds,

of which \$40 billion would come from China — a significant step for the world's third largest economy.

Much of that is likely to go to struggling poorer countries, notably in eastern Europe.

The summit also agreed on a trade finance package worth \$250 billion over two years to support global trade flows, which are forecast to fall nine per cent this year under the impact of the credit crunch.

The G20 said in a communique the measures taken would raise world output by four per cent by the end of next year.

REUTERS

MORE G20 COVERAGE, PG 9

Reaction

Leaders on the measures

• British PM Gordon Brown: "This is the day that the world came together to fight back against the global recession, not with words but with a plan for global recovery and reform and with a clear timetable."

• Russian President Dmitry Medvedev: "The speed with which we are acting at least makes me think that many of the decisions we are taking will be pretty effective."

• German Chancellor Angela Merkel: "I think I can say that we have found a very good, almost historic compromise in a unique crisis."

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N. Korea may launch missile Saturday

ARMS North Korea's missile preparations suggest Pyongyang could launch a satellite into space as early as Saturday, an American defence official said Thursday as the U.S. military monitored the situation.

At the United Nations, Japan's UN ambassador, Yukio Takasu, said his country would request an emergency meeting of the Security Council to discuss a possible response if North Korea launched the long-range missile in the coming days.

The United States and others have threatened

"They're doing everything consistent with the launch of a space vehicle."

U.S. defence official

North Korea with punishment if they launch the long-range missile.

"They're doing everything consistent with the launch of a space vehicle on April 4," the U.S. defence official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Pyongyang has said it

will send a satellite into orbit between April 4 and 8 but the United States, South Korea and Japan say the launch is a disguised test of the long-range Tae-podong-2 missile, which is designed to carry a warhead to U.S. territory.

Takasu told reporters intensive diplomatic efforts were under way to persuade Pyongyang not to launch the rocket, which he said would represent a "threat to the security of Japan" and further increase regional and international tensions.

REUTERS

New Afghan law stirs anger

RIGHTS A new law for Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan has provoked anger among some lawmakers, and the United Nations said it was seriously concerned about the law's potential impact on women's rights in the former Taliban state.

The law passed by parliament and signed by President Hamid Karzai, but not yet promulgated in the official gazette, is meant to legalize minority Shiite family law, which is different from that of the majority Sunni population.

British media have reported that the law could

legalize marital rape and prohibit women from leaving home without the permission of their husbands.

But lawmaker Sayed Hussain Alem Balkhi, who was involved in debating the bill in parliament, said it contained "no such thing" and that the reports were "propaganda."

"This bill stipulates lots of leniencies compared to the civic laws that have been around for 40 years. For example, (under the new law) a Shiite woman can seek divorce if her husband is not able to feed her," Balkhi said. **REUTERS**

News in brief

PROTEST A few hundred protesters clashed with police in the French city of Strasbourg on Thursday on the eve of a NATO summit that is expected to draw thousands of demonstrators onto the streets.

SCIENCE Researchers said on Thursday they had created machines that could reason, formulate theories and discover scientific knowledge on their own.

DETAINEES A U.S. federal judge ruled Thursday that some of the detainees held at the U.S. military base in Afghanistan can sue in U.S. court to seek their release. **REUTERS**

The dog ate my Russian tea party

While Prime Minister Vladimir Putin was discussing ways to help the local food industry, his pet dog gobbled up delicacies prepared for leaders of his United Russia party. **REUTERS**

world **7**Indonesia **Yoga and politics**

Petra Odebrecht speaks at a yoga studio on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. She is the first German-born woman running for Indonesia's parliament. The country, Southeast Asia's biggest economy and largest democracy, holds parliamentary elections on April 9, followed by presidential elections on July 8.

Congo civilians return home following rebellion

KINSHASA Some 300,000 people in eastern Congo have returned home due to a local rebellion dying out but at least 150,000 more have fled this year, mostly from Rwandan Hutu rebels, a United Nations aid agency said Thursday.

Democratic Republic of Congo allowed thousands of Rwandan soldiers into its violence-ravaged North Kivu province in January to take on the Rwandan Hutu rebel Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) based there.

The operation marked a major advance in relations

between the two countries, former enemies during a 1998-2003 war, and was touted as a success by government authorities in both Kinshasa and Kigali when the Rwandan withdrawal in late February.

The joint operations helped neutralize Congo's own North Kivu-based Tutsi rebels and the UN's humanitarian co-ordination agency, OCHA, said on Thursday that the resulting improvement in security had allowed the 300,000 internal refugees to return.

REUTERS**News in brief**

DISEASE Polio has spread out of Nigeria to re-infect six neighbouring countries that had eliminated the disease, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. The new Nigerian outbreaks set back a bid to wipe out the water-borne disease globally, the CDC said in its weekly report on death and disease.

PARIS At the International Oil Summit, OPEC said oil was not to blame for climate change and consuming countries should pay to fight the threat, while the CEO of Royal Dutch Shell said drivers could help by not buying Hummer sports utility vehicles. **REUTERS**

Palestinian factions suspend talks

CAIRO Rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah on Thursday adjourned Egyptian-mediated reconciliation talks until later this month without reaching agreement, Palestinian officials said.

"There were new ideas addressed that will need more consultations within the institutions of each party," Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar told Reuters.

Differences remained over the political agenda for any unity government.

REUTERS**Russia accuses Georgia**

Moscow claims rival country is planning revenge for war defeat

Russia accused Georgia on Thursday of planning revenge against pro-Moscow separatists and warned the United States against arms sales to Tbilisi.

Georgia's U.S.-trained armed forces were routed by Russian troops during a five-day war last August when Tbilisi tried to retake its rebel South

Ossetia region by force.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said on Monday the threat from Russia remained high and that Georgia needed stronger armed forces.

"Such comments by Mr. Saakashvili ... only prove the self-evident — Tbilisi has not learnt the lesson from last year's events in

the Caucasus and probably cherishes plans of revenge," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko told a news briefing.

Russia has repeatedly accused the U.S. and Ukraine of supplying arms to Georgia.

"As for foreign assistance to Tbilisi to restore (Georgia's) military poten-

tial, it cannot be viewed otherwise than as encouragement of the aggressor," Nesterenko added.

"We expect that the United States, Ukraine and other nations considering themselves to be responsible international players will take this into account in their policy," Nesterenko said.

REUTERS**ONLY 7 DAYS LEFT**

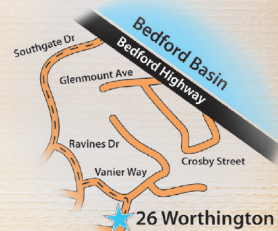
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Comment & Views

Comment

Washing away sin of creation

Marketplace

Erica Johnson

metronews.ca/johnson

Ever noticed how there seems to be a product for everything — even stuff you didn't realize you needed? Five years ago, no one walked around with teeth so white they could glow in the dark. Today, "whitening toothpaste" is everywhere, along with "whitening strips," "laser bleaching" and numerous other products that promise to brighten those pearly not-so-whites.

And how about bottled water? The water's fine to drink out of almost every

tap in Canada, but companies have convinced us we need to pay for it. That somehow, their product is better than a resource that's actually free! Creating a need and then offering up a product to meet that need is a money-grabber that's been around since the dawn of time. So at Marketplace, we call that marketing tactic "The Sin of Creation."

And nowhere has this marketing technique been used more than with cleansers — dishwashing liquids, shampoos, body scrubs, detergents and plain ol' soap. Now, all those products have morphed into a multi-million dollar industry for all things



On the web

• Tips on how to avoid marketing plays involving soap.

"antibacterial." Seems the old-fashioned cleansers — that are usually cheaper — are no longer good enough. But do you really need to spend money on new products that can cost more?

To find out, we put antibacterial soap to the test against plain old-fashioned soap. First, we tracked down some school children and swabbed their grimy hands. Then, half the kids washed with antibacterial soap, the other half with the regular soap. We swabbed their hands a second time and sent the samples to the lab.

Our test found no

benefit to using anti-bacterial soap. That's no surprise to Rolf Halden, an environmental scientist at Johns Hopkins University. According to Halden, "there is very limited benefit, according to scientific studies."

And not only that, many health agencies are warning against using anti-bacterial products, because they could lead to dangerous bacterial resistance. But you won't see that listed on any label.

So next time you feel the sudden urge to buy a "new and improved" product, reflect a moment before you reach into your wallet. Maybe you can avoid becoming a target of "The Sin of Creation."

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.



Worth mentioning

Small islands urge deep CO2 cuts, fear rising seas

ENVIRONMENT Small island states have sharpened their calls for the rich to make deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, saying low-lying atolls risk being washed off the map by rising ocean levels.

An alliance of 43 island states, backed by more than a dozen nations in Africa and Latin America, urged developed countries at UN climate talks in Bonn Thursday to cut greenhouse emissions by "at least 45 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020."

"The scientific findings about climate change are frightening," M.J. Mace, a legal adviser to the Federated States of Micronesia who presented the demands at the meeting, told Reuters.

A group of leading researchers last month projected a quickening pace of sea level rise this century, of about a metre, or roughly double the projections by the UN Climate Panel in 2007.

The small islands had called at a UN climate meeting in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008 for cuts of "more than 40 per cent" in industrialized nations' emissions by 2020.

"Why would small island states be happy with a level of ambition that is going to destroy their countries?" Mace said. The highest points of some Pacific, Caribbean or Indian Ocean states are only a few metres above sea level.

REUTERS

Views

Tories making it too easy for opposition?

UrbanCompass

Paul McLeod

metronews.ca/mcleod

At what point, I wonder, does it become so easy for opposition parties that it's not fun anymore?

Like the Black Knight in the Monty Python sketch, making quips about scratches and mere flesh wounds as his limbs fall off, Justice Minister Cecil Clarke has seen better weeks.

The timing isn't clear, but it's entirely possible Clarke was speaking to reporters about fixing the mistaken release problems at the exact time a new prisoner was accidentally released.

Have fun doing anything when you're dealt that hand.

Reportedly, a frustrated Clarke's response to the news was "you've got to be kidding me."

And for once, as the opposition calls for a minister's resignation, he actually offers it. Of course, with practically no backbench and trying to maintain integrity facing down an election, Premier Rodney MacDonald stood by his man.

Clarke insists he's ready to debate his record with anyone. But there's been 11 prisoners released over the last three years, and several common sense changes only came into place this week. Short of actually being a convict — and then being mistakenly released — it's hard to see how he could be in a worse spot.

Meanwhile the government is trying to change the laws to avoid going into deficit. And the person selling this plan is Finance Minister Jamie

"The timing isn't clear, but it's entirely possible Clarke was speaking to reporters about fixing the mistaken release problems at the exact time a new prisoner was accidentally released."

Muir, a retiring MLA who clearly has one foot out the door.

"I really don't think there will be an election. I mean if you were the opposition parties, why would you force an election?" asked Muir last week.

"Because you're in third place," one reporter explained.

"I don't think we are in third place," Muir replied. "I think in the minds of most Nova Scotians we're in first place with a majority government."

Presumably, in Muir's world the Conservative majority will ride into the legislature on unicorns.

The bottom line is it all

rests on the Liberals. They know they can't win this time around, but an election will give them exactly what they want — more exposure for still newish leader Stephen McNeil.

Then they'll still get to be an opposition party during a recession, and if this week has shown anything, it's that it's a good time to be an opposition party.

So circle late June/early July on your calendars. If we're lucky, the campaign will be even close to as ridiculous as this last week has been.

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He's currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly. Contact paul.mcleod@metronews.ca.



Why would small island states be happy with a level of ambition that is going to destroy their countries?" Mace said. The highest points of some Pacific, Caribbean or Indian Ocean states are only a few metres above sea level.

"The scientific findings about climate change are frightening," M.J. Mace, a legal adviser to the Federated States of Micronesia who presented the demands at the meeting, told Reuters.

REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

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Disney buys Kaboose websites for \$18.4 million

Disney has bought the U.S. assets of Canadian company Kaboose, paying about \$18.4 million for sites like Kaboose.com, Babyzone.com, AmazingMoms.com. **REUTERS**

9

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Global stocks surge

Investors see G20 moves reviving economies

Global stocks and oil surged Thursday on optimism over efforts by world leaders meeting in London to revive global growth.

Toronto's main stock index shot to its highest close in nearly three months. News out of the G20, which included a tril-

lion-dollar deal to help combat the global financial crisis, sparked a surge in oil prices and opened the door for the resource-heavy TSX to record its third straight day of gains.

U.S. stocks also rallied for a third day. The Dow is now on track for its best

four-week rally since 1933.

The upbeat tone at the G20 summit boosted investors' risk appetite by raising hopes that a co-ordinated effort would reverse the shrinking of the global economy for the first time since World War Two. **REUTERS**

Moss Model store opening



Model Kate Moss poses with British retailer Sir Philip Green at the opening of the first Topshop and Topman clothing store in New York Thursday. Britain's trendy mass-market fashion retailer could eventually have about 15 stores in the United States, said its billionaire owner Green.

OECD targets tax havens

SUMMIT The OECD has placed Costa Rica, Malaysia, the Philippines and Uruguay on its blacklist of non-co-operative tax havens, as part of efforts agreed at the Group of 20 summit to crack down on tax evasion.

A separate "gray list" of countries that have agreed to improve transparency standards but have not yet signed the necessary international accords included Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Singapore and Chile as well as the Cayman Islands, Liechtenstein and Monaco.

China is on a third "white list" of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented the internationally agreed tax standards. But the OECD said China's two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao had so far only "committed to implement" the tax standard. **REUTERS**

Bombardier cuts more jobs as demand for jets plunges

AEROSPACE Bombardier Inc. reported a better-than-expected quarterly profit Thursday, but said it would cut another 3,000 jobs and scale back production of its business jets this year due to dwindling orders.

The job cuts will take place at facilities in Canada, the United States, Mexico and Northern Ireland by the end of 2009, it said.

The job losses are in ad-

dition to the 1,360 layoffs announced Feb. 5. Demand for business planes deteriorated rapidly in the last six months of 2008 and the company now expects to deliver 25 per cent fewer business planes this year.

Bombardier said net income rose 42 per cent to \$309 million in the fourth quarter from \$218 million a year earlier. **REUTERS**

Watchdog takes fizz out of Coke

ADVERTISING Claims Coke will not make children fat or rot their teeth have landed Coca-Cola in trouble with Australia's consumer watchdog, which Thursday ordered the soft drink company to correct its advertising.

Coca-Cola South Pacific last year ran advertising claiming Coke was "kiddy-safe." **REUTERS**

In brief

AUTOS Chrysler Canada extended its production shut-down to a second Ontario plant Thursday as a parts shortage forced it to idle its Brampton plant in addition to its minivan plant in Windsor.

TOS ConocoPhillips said its first-quarter earnings would be hurt by weakness in natural gas prices and its marketing margins would be significantly lower. **REUTERS**

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Iran.....3.9 ¢	Saudi Arabia.....3.9 ¢
Iraq.....4.9 ¢	Syria.....18.9 ¢
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Latin America

CUBA 85 c/min

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Honduras.....15.9 ¢	Chile.....2.9 ¢
Panama.....3.9 ¢	Colombia.....3.9 ¢
Uruguay.....7.9 ¢	Dominican Rep.....6.9 ¢
Venezuela.....2.9 ¢	Mexico.....2.9 ¢

South Asia

PAKISTAN 5.9 c/min

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Bhutan.....15.9 ¢
Maldives.....16.9 ¢
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Portland Trail Blazers assistant coach Maurice Lucas has undergone surgery for bladder cancer. The team said he had surgery on Tuesday and will be away six-to-eight weeks recovering. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



"It's always been in the middle of the pack. Had I been with the Yankees or the Dodgers, I think it would have been No. 1."

Former Blue Jays slugger Joe Carter, on how his championship-winning home run in Game 6 of the 1993 World Series never appears atop U.S. lists of baseball moments. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Cutler gets wish, traded to Bears

NFL The Denver Broncos have traded disgruntled quarterback Jay Cutler to the Chicago Bears. ESPN said the Broncos would receive two first-round draft picks, including this year's eighth



Cutler

selection, a third-rounder and quarterback Kyle Orton for Cutler and a fifth-round draft pick this year. Cutler had asked for a trade last month after his relationship with new coach Josh McDaniels soured. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

For more sports coverage visit: metronews.ca



Habs pillage Islanders

NHL RESULT

Canadiens 5 Islanders 1

Saku Koivu and Andrei Markov each tallied a goal and an assist as the Montreal Canadiens clobbered the New York Islanders 5-1 to keep pace in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Alex Tanguay, Mathieu Schneider and Michael Komisarek also scored for the Canadiens, who have won four of five after a five-game slide to move into the seventh position in the East, one point ahead of the Rangers, who lost to Carolina Thursday.

Jaroslav Halak made 26 saves in place of Carey Price, who missed the game with the flu.



Georges Laraque smiles before fighting Joel Rechlicz Thursday.

Montreal has five games remaining, three of them on the road, including a contest at Toronto on Saturday.

Jeff Tambellini scored the lone goal for the Is-

landers, who have dropped six of seven and are last in the NHL with 59 points. Yann Danis allowed all five goals on 38 shots in a losing effort.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cito Gaston slams Roger Clemens

BASEBALL Before any of Roger Clemens' recent travails, Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston considered Clemens a hall of fame jerk.

Gaston's feelings surfaced yesterday when asked what he thought of a new book *The Rocket That Fell to Earth*, in which author Jeff Pearlman hints that Clemens, who arrived in Toronto the same season the Jays replaced Gaston as manager, influenced the club to fire Gaston in 1997.

"He's an a--hole himself. A complete a--hole," Gaston said with a chuckle. For the next five minutes Gaston, who is starting his first full season in his second stint as Jays' manager detailed the strained relationship with the star pitcher, who had signed with the Jays before the 1997 season.

The Jays asked Gaston to

"One of us would have had an ass whuppin' that day."

Gaston on how Roger Clemens wouldn't confront him

resign with five games remaining in the 1997 season.

Pearlman's book charges that Clemens persuaded the team to hire Tim Johnson, who lost his job after one season after it was revealed that he lied about having fought in the Vietnam War.

"He wouldn't (confront me)," Gaston said.

"One of us would have had an ass whuppin' that day," Gaston said.

"It might have been me, but he still would have known I was there."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Halifax native picked for Universiade soccer team

Halifax's Rachael Swetnam, an Ontario University Athletics all-star midfielder with the Ottawa Gee-Gees, has been named to Canada's women's soccer team for the 25th Summer Universiade from July 1 to 12 in Belgrade, Serbia. **METRO HALIFAX**

A whole new player

Former Moosehead Brad Marchand brings new attitude to AHL

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Brad Marchand didn't want to repeat in the pros the fateful end to his junior career with the Halifax Mooseheads.

So, as the 20-year-old forward embarked on his American Hockey League rookie season with the Providence Bruins, he approached head coach Rob Murray with a request.

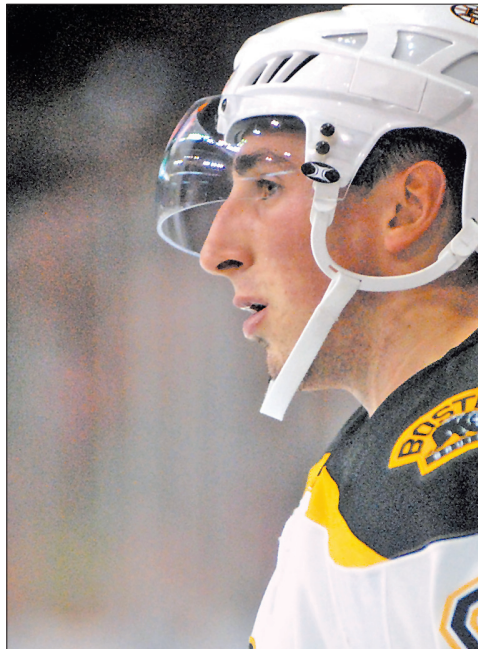
"He came in early in the season and said, 'I want you to make me a man as a hockey player,'" Murray recalled.

Marchand's reputation for having an attitude problem preceded him. After a love-hate tenure with back-to-back gold-medal-winning Canadian world junior teams, Marchand arrived in Halifax midway through 2007-08 trumpeted as the man who would lead the Herd to its first President's Cup.

But the Mooseheads suffered a total meltdown, swept in the semifinals by the Gatineau Olympiques, and Marchand was a healthy scratch in the deciding game.

"He had a clean slate with me," Murray said. "I wasn't going to look for anything other people had talked about."

The Hammonds Plains



Former Moosehead Brad Marchand has recorded 54 points in 73 games for the American Hockey League's Providence Bruins.

native has risen to new heights, posting 16 goals and 38 assists for 54 points in 73 games, third on the Bruins, a young team with a 40-26-2-6 record.

"He's done everything I've asked," Murray said. "I can give it to him. He comes off the ice and if he's done something I

don't like, I let him know. He's thick-skinned. He doesn't pout."

It was a surprise when Marchand wasn't named to the AHL all-rookie team. Three older college grads — Tim Kennedy, Justin Abdelkader and Nathan Gerbe — got the nod. Marchand is second in

Former captain

• Hammonds Plains native Andrew Bodnarchuk has been out of the Providence Bruins' lineup for the better part of a month with a finger injury. The former Halifax Mooseheads captain and AHL rookie has a goal and eight assists in 59 games. He should be ready for the playoffs. "He was playing exceptional hockey before the injury," said Bruins head coach Rob Murray.

rookie scoring behind Kennedy.

"He's the kind of kid who will go out and prove to the world that he should have been on that team," Murray said.

The five-foot-nine 187-pounder skates with Wacey Rabbit and Jeremy Reich. He matches up against top lines and is used in last-minute defensive situations. Murray said Marchand "stirs the pot," "never quits," and "loves playing the game."

An NHL call-up from the Boston Bruins can't be far off. Murray said he's "at the top of the depth chart."

"His game has elevated at the pro level," said Murray, a former NHLer. "I'm not looking at what he did in the past. I'm looking at what he does now. And he's been great."

Oceanic employ former Herd star in grittier role

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

You know the Rimouski Oceanic are good when you see Logan MacMillan anchoring their checking line.

The first-round draft pick of the Anaheim Ducks and former scoring-line forward for the Halifax Mooseheads has taken on a new role as a grinder with Rimouski, which continues its foray into the QMJHL playoffs this weekend.

"It's a pretty big change," MacMillan admitted. "In Halifax, I

was relied on for first line, power play, all that stuff. I got here and they have a lot of guys capable of those roles. I'm more of

a checking-line, add-what-I-can kind of thing."

The Oceanic acquired MacMillan from the Mooseheads in December for Guillaume Pelletier and draft picks. The 19-year-old from Winsloe, P.E.I., has five goals and 17 assists for 22 points in 32 games since joining Rimouski.

His linemates have been Felix Lafrancois (45 points in 59 games) and Luca Cunti (45 points in 57 games).

"I'm not expecting him to score a lot of goals," said Rimouski head coach Clement Jodoin, a former bench boss of the Mooseheads. "He brings a presence, he has a role. He's a big guy who can finish his checks. He's been there before and he's not panicking, and that's what we need."

Quarter-finals

• Former Halifax Mooseheads blue-liner Guillaume Monast, now with the Quebec Remparts, will go up against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in the QMJHL quarter-finals. Monast, a 20-year-old Dallas Stars prospect, had 43 points in 63 games this season and added four points in a 4-1 first-round series win over the Baie-Comeau Drakkar.

The quarter-finals begin Friday night in Quebec City.

As for local talent still alive in the playoffs, Halifax's Andrew Roski is the last man standing. Roski, a rookie forward for the Moncton Wildcats who had no points in five games in the first round, faces the Rimouski Oceanic.

The Oceanic have their hands full in the QMJHL best-of-seven quarter-final against the Moncton Wildcats. The Wildcats allowed the fewest goals in Q history, backstopped by record-setting league most valuable player Nicola Riopel.

But the Oceanic are not exactly slouches, winners of a stunning 24 of their past 25 games, including an opening-round four-game sweep of the Chicoutimi Saguenéens.

Game 1 of the quarters is Friday night in Moncton.

"We have some firepower," MacMillan said. "They have a good defensive corps but they have a few young guys. We'll work it down low and get in front. We know their goalie was tops in the league, but we need to make it tough on him."

Sports in brief

SNOWBOARDING Dartmouth snowboarder Sarah Conrad is the Canadian half-pipe champion after winning gold at nationals on Thursday in Mont-Tremblant, Que. Conrad, who competed at the 2006 Olympics, finished on top of the podium for the first time in her career as she wrapped up a successful season.

METRO HALIFAX

Foreurs win meaningless draft draw

QMJHL In what was nothing more than a formality, the Val-d'Or Foreurs have won the official draw for the No. 1 overall pick in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League draft.

The Foreurs, who placed 17th out of 18 teams, technically edged out the last-place Halifax Mooseheads

in the 50-50 draw held in downtown Montreal yesterday morning.

But the Foreurs actually have the rights to the Mooseheads' pick too, so it didn't make a difference who won the draw. Halifax's No. 2 pick will officially go to Val-d'Or. The Mooseheads traded the pick as

part of a blockbuster deal to acquire Brad Marchand in December 2007.

The buzz among the scouting community is that the draft isn't particularly strong this year, which should help ease some of the pain for the Mooseheads on draft day.

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Yankees general partner Hal Steinbrenner admits some tickets might be overpriced given the recession. The Yankees set prices for their premium Legends Suites seats 13 months ago and sold them for \$500-\$2,500 US as part of season tickets. Some of those seats remain available for individual games. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sox, Jays face a tough AL East

The Boston Red Sox came within one game of reaching the World Series last year.

The good news is that they are returning basically the same lineup.

However, the bad news for the Red Sox is that not only is the team that beat you in the ALCS, the Tampa Bay Rays, in your own division, but your hated rivals, the New York Yankees, have also gained

Major League Baseball 2009 Preview

some ground on you this offseason.

With the transition from the Manny Ramirez-era complete, new leaders have emerged on this team in reigning AL MVP Dustin Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis.

While the Yankees signed the best two start-

ing pitchers on the market, Boston surprisingly went the cheaper route, signing veteran right-handers Brad Penny and John Smoltz to short-term deals.

Those two additions join an already deep rotation that includes Josh Beckett, Jon Lester, Daisuke Matsuzaka, and, of course Tim Lincecum.

Toronto Blue Jays

The Toronto Blue Jays have

produced three straight winning seasons for the first time in almost a decade.

Unfortunately for the Jays, they just happen to play in the best division in all of baseball.

Not only do they have to contend with the Red Sox and Yankees, but now the once-perennial doormat Rays have emerged as a powerhouse in the East.

Roy Halladay continues

to anchor a pitching staff that led the majors with a 3.94 earned run average.

A big part of that staff is gone, though, as 18-game winner A.J. Burnett bolted for a big money contract from the Yankees.

Actually, this year after Halladay there is just not much there. However, his time could be coming to a close as well, as he has just two years remaining on a cheap contract.



Travis Snider

With the team not expected to contend this season, now may be the time general manager J.P. Ricciardi pulls the trigger and starts to go in a different direction.

Offensively, the team will again be led by outfielders Vernon Wells and Alex Rios, while the organization is hoping two of its top prospects — Travis Snider and Adam Lind — are ready to contribute on a full-time basis.

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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

A child star is born

Pg 14



According to Billy Ray Cyrus, there would be no Hannah Montana without Canada. While watching a theatre show in Toronto, Miley Cyrus leaned over to her father and said, "This is what I want to do." Years later, Hannah Montana: The Movie is born.

movies

Pg 16



Adventureland a warm coming-of-age comedy.

music

Pg 19



Open call for your top ten picks in Canadian music.

entertainment

Pg 21



Genie Awards show puts national talent on parade.

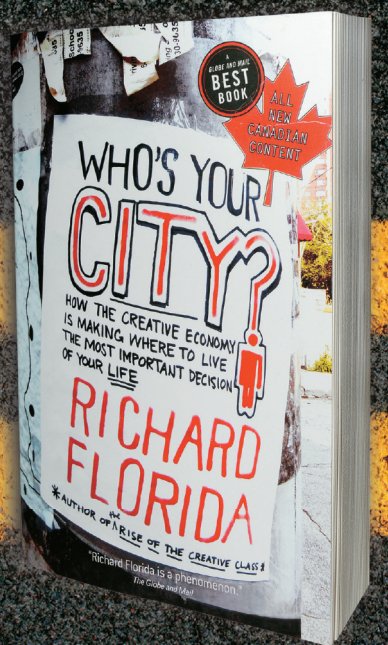
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Pitt, Inglourious Basterds up for Cannes

Brad Pitt is going to Cannes — and means to win. The star's Second World War action film, the intentionally misspelled *Inglourious Basterds*, has been invited to the Cannes Film Festival from May 13-24, along with the film's director, Variety reports. **PEOPLE.COM**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Actors mop it up

Sunshine Cleaning

Director: Christine Jeffs
Stars: Amy Adams, Emily Blunt
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
 for Metro Canada

In *Sunshine Cleaning*, Amy Adams and Emily Blunt star as two sisters ringing in an early mid-life crisis by starting up a lucrative business cleaning up gruesome crime-scenes.

It may sound more like a grim new HBO series, but instead this comic-drama takes a light and charming look at a broken family just trying to make ends meet.

While single mom Rose (Adams) deals with an extramarital affair and a son who has an odd fetish for licking everything from aquariums to his teacher's leg, Norah (Blunt) is a mope who can't seem to get over her mother's death. To top it off, their dad (Alan Arkin basically reprising his *Little Miss*

Sunshine role) is constantly engaging in zany business ventures.

For Adams, this may be as subversive as we've seen the actress. Considering her past roles (like the naïve nun from *Doubt* or a ditzzy fairytale princess in *Enchanted*), that's not really saying much however. Still, she proves herself with a powerfully nuanced, and empathetic performance.

Besides, acting is where *Sunshine Cleaning* really exceeds. Written by first-timer Megan Holley (the



Amy Adams, left, and Emily Blunt star in *Sunshine Cleaning*.

film got discovered in a 2003 screenwriting contest), *Cleaning* may suffer

from a standard script that thinks it's smarter than it is, but the bleaker

context and superior cast definitely helps mop up the spill.

Wolverine leaked out

FILM X-Men Origins: Wolverine made an unauthorized debut online Tuesday, even though the film isn't set for U.S. release until May 1.

Websites described the illegal download as a nearly complete, high-quality copy, but 20th Century Fox, the studio behind the film, said Wednesday that it included temporary sound and music and was missing effects and some scenes, with other scenes unedited.

The studio issued a state-

ment saying, "We immediately contacted the appropriate authorities and had it removed," though once a film begins circulating online, it can be difficult to stamp it out.

Because of forensic marks, the studio said it would be able to determine the source of the leak, though it did not immediately disclose it, saying: "The FBI and the MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America) also are actively investigating this crime."

REUTERS

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Arena Services: We want to hear from you!

Halifax Regional Municipality recently entered into negotiations for the construction of a 4 pad indoor ice facility as the first step in a comprehensive re-development of area services in the municipality. The next phase is to develop a strategic plan on the recapitalization of the remaining existing portfolio. In order to ensure access for all residents, HRM is asking for input from groups and individuals currently using arenas in HRM and from those wishing to rent time or participate in ice activities but who may not have been able to do so as a result of a lack of capacity in the existing system.

Please go to Halifax.ca to fill out a survey related to your ice usage requirements. For a paper version of this survey call 490-4833.

Survey should be completed by April 6, 2009.

Thank you for your participation.

From the director of **SUPERBAD**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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Check theatre directory or go to www.tribute.ca for showtimes

Two months after news broke of the alleged violence between Rihanna and Chris Brown, a PSA about domestic violence starring Keira Knightley is set to debut in theatres. The two-minute clip depicts Knightley being violently beaten by a man. **PEOPLE.COM**

Movies

★★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★★ GOOD; ★★★ FAIR; ★★ POOR

Adventureland's got heart

Adventureland

Director: Greg Mottola

Stars: Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart

Classification: 14A

Rating: ★★★★★

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

If, like me, you had a crappy summer job in the 1980s, *Adventureland* will probably touch a place in your heart. Written and directed by Greg Mottola (*Superbad*), this comedy follows James (Jesse Eisenberg), an aspiring scholar who is forced into working away his vacation to earn his tuition.

Unable to land anything

On the web

For an *Adventureland* trailer, and for screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.

of prominence, he reluctantly takes a gig at *Adventureland*, a worn-out amusement park that specializes in fetid corn dogs, fixed games, the endless sound of Falco's *Rock Me Amadeus* and a bunch of summer slackers "doing the work of pathetic, lazy morons."

Among them is cute Em (Twilight's Kristen Stewart), the arcade girl that James tragically falls for — she's embroiled in a secret affair with the park's fix-it-guy (Ryan Reynolds).



Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart star in *Adventureland*.

Although *Adventureland* is being pitched on Mottola's *Superbad* cred, this semi-autobiographical film is a much softer, more nostalgic love story set in the skids of Pennsylvania.

Sure, the script doesn't have the comedic gusto of his previous hit, but Mottola makes up for a more contemplative story by providing plenty of heart to characters clinging onto

the final moments of immaturity.

Highlighted by clever, nuanced performances and a killer soundtrack that includes everyone from Crowded House to Hüsker Dü, Mottola captures — with the essence of hindsight — what it means to come of age in 1987.

And to think, he didn't even have to use a Milli Vanilli reference.

Rogen courts danger

Movie profile

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

FEATURE Having spent the last few years cultivating a lucrative career playing the loveable stoner, Seth Rogen tries for something a bit different in his latest film, *Observe and Report*.

Rogen plays Ronnie Barnhardt, a loose-cannon, bipolar security guard obsessed with protecting his mall patrons and, by extension, society as a whole. Ronnie launches a crusade to bring a serial flasher to justice that puts him at odds with a local police detective, played by Ray Liotta. But while Ronnie takes his pursuit of justice almost too seriously, Rogen didn't approach the film — opening next week — as a drama.

"In my head it was all very funny," he says. "The more serious and crazy it was, the funnier I thought it was after the take."

Rogen — who's since slimmed down for his role as *The Green Hornet* — packed on the pounds to prepare for the part. "The less physically capable he looked. Because the joke is, he actually is pretty dangerous," he said.

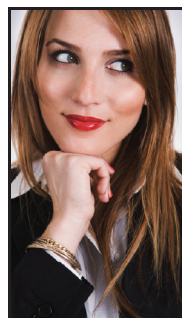
"There was a conscious decision to make this film kind of dangerous and edgy," explains writer/director Jody Hill. "There've been a lot of 'safe' comedies, where everything's a wink to the camera. I thought if you could root it in reality and then still have these crazy things go on, that it would have more impact."

Unlike that other movie about a mall security guard, *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*, *Observe and Report*'s crew attempted a more serious take. "We wanted to make a sort of character piece that you would see in the '70s," Hill says. "We were focusing more on movies like *Taxi Driver* and *The King of Comedy*."

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When: Tuesday, April 7th, 2009

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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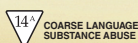
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Showtimes: 7:00, 9:15 matinee 2:00

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APRIL 3 TO THURS., APRIL 9. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
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12 Rounds (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thru 1:10-4:10-9:45
Adventureland (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:45-3:30-7:20-9:50
Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thru 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:30
Coraline (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thru 12:40-3:15-6:40
Duplicity (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:35
Fast & Furious (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:30-1:30-3:40-6:30-7:20-9:40
The Haunting in Connecticut (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:00-4:10-7:05-9:30
I Love You, Man (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 1:10-4:20-7:05-9:25
Knowing (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:40-3:45-6:45-9:35
The Last House on the Left (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 4:05-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-4:05-7:10-9:45
Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:00-4:40-6:45-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 12:00-4:40-6:45-9:30
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thru 9:40
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:30-3:30-7:20-9:50

Slumdog Millionaire (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:40-3:30-6:35-9:20
Taken (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thru 12:00-4:7:25-9:50
Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:45-4:30-9
WWE: Wrestlemania 25 2009 (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 8

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Monsters vs. Aliens: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 2:10-4:30-7:15-9:50
Under the Sea (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:35

OXFORD THEATRE

6408 Quinpool Rd.
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Sunshine Cleaning (14) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:7-9:15 Mon-Thru 7:15-9:15

PARK LANE

5657 Spring Garden Rd.
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12 Rounds (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 3:45-6:45-9:45
Duplicity (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:40-3:30-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 12:40-3:30-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 12:40-3:30-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 3:30-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 3:30-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 3:30-6:20-9:10
Fast & Furious (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:00-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:20-9:50 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 3:20-6:40-7:20-9:20-9:50

4:10-6:40-7:20-9:20-9:50
The Haunting in Connecticut (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 4:7-10-9:30

I Love You, Man (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:40-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 3:40-7:40

Knowing (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-5:00-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 3:50-6:30-9:25

Metropolitan Opera: Lucia di Lammermoor Encore (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 2

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:10-6:50-9:30 Stadium Seating Thu 3:10-9

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12 Rounds (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:35 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:35 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 7:10-9:35
Duplicity (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:30-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat 3:05-6:30-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:30-9:15

Fast & Furious (14) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 7:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thru 7:30-9:30

The Haunting in Connecticut (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:15-9:40 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 7:15-9:40

I Love You, Man (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:15-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:45-9:10

Knowing (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:40-9:20

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:30-9:30

Seating Mon-Thru 6:30-9
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Stadium Seating Fri Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru

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Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 7:15-9:15 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thru 7:15-9:15

Duplicity (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:10-6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thru 6:30-9:10

Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:40

Knowing (14) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2:20-6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thru 6:35-9:05

The Last House on the Left (18) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thru 6:40-9

One Week (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:50-6:45-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:45-8:50

Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo Fri 7:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thru 7:30-9:30

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 145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
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12 Rounds (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:55

Adventureland (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 7:15-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05

Duplicity (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 7:15-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05

Fast & Furious (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:30-9:30

Tue 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7:15-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05

Fast & Furious (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thru 12:20-1:15-3:20-4:10-6:40-7:10-9:25-9:50

The Haunting in Connecticut (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 1:30-4:05-7:10-9:50

I Love You, Man (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stereo Seating Fri-Thru 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:35

Knowing (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:30

The Last House on the Left (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 10

Metropolitan Opera: Lucia di Lammermoor Encore (STC) No Passes Sat 2

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thru 1:34-5-7:40

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thru 12:15-1:30-2:40-4:15-5:05-6:45-7:30-9:10-10

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thru 12:2-4:0-5:10-7:30

WWE: Wrestlemania 25 (STC) No Passes Sun 8

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12 Rounds (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:35-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat 2:05-6:35-9:30 Stadium Seating Sun 2:05-6:25-8:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:25-8:40

Adventureland (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:05-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat 2:25-7:05-9:25 Stadium Seating Sun 2:25-6:20-8:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:20-8:30

Duplicity (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-6:30 Stadium Seating Sun 2:6 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6

Fast & Furious (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-6:50-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:30-6:30-8:50 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:30-8:50

The Haunting in Connecticut (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-8:55 Stadium Seating Sat 2:15-6:45-8:55 Stadium Seating Sun 2:15-6:15-8:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:15-8:20

Knowing (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat 2:10-6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-6:05-8:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thru 6:05-8:30

The Last House on the Left (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 9:10 Stadium Seating Sun-Thru 8:40

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 7:15-9:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 2:20-7:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 2:20-6:10-8:20 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thru 6:10-8:20

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 7:15-9:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 2:20-7:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 2:20-6:10-8:20 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thru 6:10-8:20

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 7:15-9:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 2:20-7:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 2:20-6:10-8:20 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thru 6:10-8:20

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Film fanboys: The saga continues

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

first became aware of fanboys when the hoopla surrounding the release of the original Star Wars hit the six o'clock news. The idea of fandom wasn't new to me but the level of obsession was.

I saw footage of people lined up outside theatres; camping in tents to be the first ones through the doors on opening day and it seemed like every fan with an old toilet roll or two had made a light sabre or replica of Darth Vader's helmet.

Those Star Wars supporters opened my eyes to the level of radical fanboy behaviour later described as "mindless paroxysms of adoration" in the pages of Fandom Confidential.

Although the term "fanboy" wasn't officially recognized by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary until last year, a group of fanboys (and girls) have wielded considerable power in Hollywood for the past decade.

King Fanboy, Harry Knowles of the Ain't It Cool website, went from obscurity to Entertainment Weekly's "101 Most Powerful People in Hollywood" list and fanboy opinion on the Internet actually brought about changes to the script of Snakes on a Plane. With that kind of power, it isn't surprising these film fans

have become film subjects. Fanboys, a new movie about four childhood friends who break into George Lucas's ranch to get a first look at The Phantom Menace, is just the tip of the iceberg.

The most famous fanboy movie is 1999's Trekkies, a documentary focusing on Star Trek subculture. Narrated by Denise (Tasha Yar) Crosby, it introduces us to extreme enthusiasts like the dentist whose Star Base Dental office is modeled after a starship and Barbara Adams, who showed up to serve on the Whitewater jury dressed in a Starfleet uniform. "I am an officer in the Federation universe 24 hours a day," she says.

On a different note is We are Wizards, an upbeat exploration into the cult of

Harry Potter, specifically the genre of wizard rock tribute bands who play Potter-inspired power pop. Bands Harry and the Potters and The Hungarian Horntails bang out songs like Wizard Rock Heart Throb and I'm a Dragon and I Don't Care, and while the music is often more passionate than good, the film offers an interesting glimpse into a little known subculture.

There are many other crazed fan movies — The Dungeon Masters profiles Dungeons and Dragons fanatics; there's the self-explanatory The Achievers: The Story of The Lebowski Fans and Cinemania about a community of fervent film aficionados — but the one thing they all have in common is the passion of fans who've found a way to



Fanboy opinion on the Internet brought about changes to the script of Snakes on a Plane.

most enjoy being a fan and become involved with the object of their obsession.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrcrouse3@hotmail.com.

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14 VIOLENCE

Music

Thunderheist hits the road

JASON RICHARDS
for Metro Canada

One can't help but feel like Thunderheist's music appearing in last year's critically acclaimed movie The Wrestler was destined to happen.

After all, the Toronto-based electro-rap duo's producer Graham Zilla is the son of Olympic wrestler Gord Bertie.

"I was actually conceived in the Olympic village," Graham reveals, shortly before Thunderheist's Exclaim! Canadian Tour, which takes them across the country between April 2nd and May 2nd.

That piece of family trivia probably added further resonance to the moment he heard Jerk It, his group's biggest single, bumping in glorious Dolby digital sound during The Wrestler's credits.

At first Graham wasn't interested in the film, writ-



Thunderheist's self-titled debut includes the single Jerk It, which was featured in The Wrestler.

ing it off as "just some B-movie" when he heard Mickey Rourke was involved.

"It premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, and I was there at the time. But I didn't go see the movie," he says. "I don't know what's wrong

with me.

"But when everybody started talking about it and I heard there was all this Oscar buzz, then I got excited. But actually seeing the movie, about half-an-hour in I was shaking, like 'Oh my god, I can't believe my song is in this movie.'

hours," says Graham. "I only realized the magnitude of his readership when I'm getting emails about it from my great-aunt."

From there, Jerk It spread wildfire-like through the internet, prompting a number of new fans to produce videos for the track. Seeing multiple versions of the track on YouTube was yet another surreal moment for Graham and Thunderheist's MC, Isis.

"I can't believe it's at that point where random people are making videos for our songs," he says.

Thunderheist's sweaty, high-energy, bass-heavy sound has evolved quite a bit since their blogospheric breakthrough.

On their self-titled debut, Graham has further refined his production style by "trying to make it sound less mechanical and letting the music breathe more and have a more natural feel."

As for Isis, while Jerk It

On tour

• Thunderheist plays the Paragon May 2nd as part of the Exclaim! Anniversary Tour; details at exclaim.ca

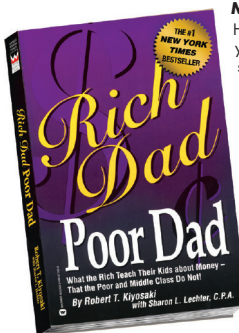
found her rapping in a sultry double-time flow, the MC sings on much of the album.

"Her tastes are pretty diverse so she wants to get out of the rap box," says Graham, "and it's good because for me, I'm way more interested in writing songs than making hip-hop instrumentals."

Just don't expect to hear any of the vocal effect du jour, the robotic auto-tune sound favoured by T-Pain, Lil' Wayne and Kanye West, on any of the tracks.

"After the album was done, somebody was like, 'Oh man, you should have put auto-tune on all the songs,'" says Graham. "I was like, 'Are you out of your mind?'"

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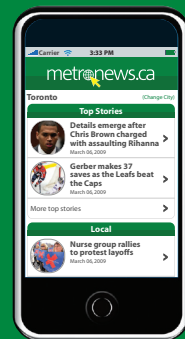
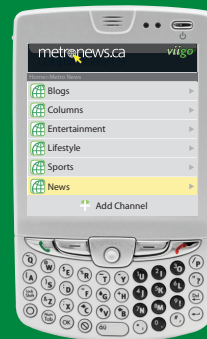
Robert Kiyosaki does not participate in this event.



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KEEPING YOU UPDATED

Billboard's top albums

1. NOW 30, Various Artists; 2. Hannah Montana: The Movie Soundtrack; 3. Twilight Soundtrack; 4. In a Perfect World..., Keri Hilson; 5. All I Ever Wanted, Kelly Clarkson. **REUTERS**

Music

Canada's best singles

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

In 2007, Bob Mersereau, a music writer from the Maritimes, tore the music geek blogosphere asunder as he compiled a book called *The Top 100 Canadian Albums*.

It was an interesting exercise in cultural nation-building, the result of input from hundreds of people across the country as he tried to come up with the definitive list. Maybe you remember the accusations of regional, gender and era bias. At least it got us talking about Canadian music.

Mersereau is now looking for the top 100 Canadian

singles of all time and he asked that I submit a top ten list as part of the process.

Honestly, though, I'd procrastinated because frankly, I didn't know where to start. Complicating matters is that I'm from the world of album rock radio where the notion of "singles" didn't have any real meaning for years. And to screw things up further, I've long been part of the alt-rock scene, immersed in some of the most obscure and/or left-wing stuff this country has ever produced.

But I had to submit something. Here's what I sent:

1. At the Hundredth Meridian, Tragically Hip
2. High School Confidential, Rough

Trade

3. One More Astronaut, I Mother Earth

4. Screaming Fist, The Viletones

5. Spirit of Radio, Rush

6. American Woman, Guess Who

7. Born to Be Wild, Steppenwolf

8. The Lines You Amend, Sloan

9. Echo Beach,

Martha and the Muffins

10. Old Man, Neil Young

From the moment I hit the "send" button, I had regrets. Why did I pick Sloan's *The Lines You Amend* when I really meant *Underwhelmed*? What about Jane Siberry's *Mimi on the Beach*?

How could I have not included Sarah McLachlan, Skinny Puppy, the Barenaked Ladies, Pro-

gandhi, Teenage Head, the Forgotten Rebels or Max Webster? What about Kim Mitchell and Go for a Soda?

Then there's Chalk Circle, BTO, Gordon Lightfoot! Baby Ran from 54-40! April Wine's not here. There's nothing from The Band on this list! Hallelujah from Leonard Cohen is missing! Is my genre bias showing by not including any hip hop? How could I leave out Life is a Highway or Big League from Tom Cochrane? And why At the Hundredth Meridian and not New Orleans is Sinking? Recall! Recall!

I hate this. I got it all wrong. I quit.

If you can do better, Mersereau says to send your list directly to him at mersereaubob@gmail.com.

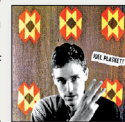
The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

The Tragically Hip's *At the Hundredth Meridian* topped Alan Cross' list of the top 10 Canadian singles of all time ... but he's already having second thoughts.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Metro Approved

• **THREE, JOEL PLASKETT:** Plaskett deftly blends a wide range of musical genres and sweet harmonies on this ambitious, and catchy three-disc release.



• **THE HAZARDS OF LOVE, THE DECEMBERISTS:** Indie-rock quintet meshes British folk influences with heavy '70s-rock guitars to create an engaging rock opera.



• **FIST OF GOD, MSTRKRFT:** Electro dance-rock duo dish out hot club tracks with techno-tinged beats and soulful guest vocals.



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Anna Nicole Smith's estranged parents may be teaming up. Smith's father told E! News that he is considering working with Smith's mother to file a wrongful death suit against their daughter's lawyerly companion, Howard K. Stern. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Three sides to life on road

Joel Plaskett explains large undertaking of his new concept record

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

It's nothing special to put out a double record these days — if you've got enough songs it's easy to stuff another disc in the package. But a triple album release? That's exactly how many CDs come with Nova Scotia native Joel Plaskett's new release, appropriately titled Three.

The folk rocker and former Thrush Hermit lead singer says the idea to release three records together was simple. "Not a lot of people do it," he says matter of factly. "And I had a lot of songs first and foremost to hang it on."

It also helped that he inadvertently repeated the same word three times in a few of the songs' titles. When he realized he had

tracks named: Rolling, Rolling, Rolling; Rewind, Rewind, Rewind; and Gone, Gone, Gone, a light bulb went off and a theme appeared.

"I had a few songs that repeated the same word three times and I thought that was cool," he explains. "Why don't I make a record of all songs like that? And then I thought, why don't I make a triple record?"

Writing enough good tracks to fill three records is no easy feat, but then Plaskett also wanted to create a concept record. He says once he recorded everything he had to figure out which song fit where. "I just put all these songs together," he says. "Then I had to connect the dots. It was like 'oh perfect, I know what this one does now.'"

The disc takes a personal look at what life is like

on the road. The more upbeat first album is about leaving where you came from, the sombre and folkier second record deals with being away from friends and family, while the lighter third instal-

ment focuses on returning home.

"Travelling and being gone, or trying to return home, is sort of an obvious thing if you're a musician," he says. "But I when I listened back to stuff I recorded while I'd been

on the road that was a huge theme that came up."

It's all powerful stuff that could have been derailed if there was a sluggish part to this album, which tends to happen when artists release more than one disc at a time. But, surprisingly, there's not one skip-over song; it's all incredibly catchy music.

Still, Plaskett was worried about cramming too many tunes into one release. "I had moments where I wondered if this was going to turn out right," he says. "Is this getting boring for people?"

On tour

• A second show for Joel Plaskett Emergency has been added for the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in late May. The band's first scheduled show on Saturday, May 30 has sold out. The added date is Thursday, May 28 with tickets now available at the box office.

He points out that the disc isn't meant to be listened to in one sitting. "That's why it's three different discs, and not a 65 minute CD," he says. It's more like a three act play, he explains. Or, he adds, a road trip. "It's supposed to feel like a trip. It's like the theme, you're going away and then coming back."



Nova Scotia native Joel Plaskett recently released the triple album Three.

Fingers pump up the jazz

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Ever wonder what You Shook Me All Night Long would sound like if Django Reinhardt played it? The Lost Fingers have.

Covering the AC/DC staple is just part of the sojourn into the decade of Aqua Net, skinny ties and bright pastel suits on The Lost Fingers' debut Lost In

The '80s. The disc is a collection of 1980s hits, done in the Montreal trio's jazz and gypsy-guitar style for which the Belgian songwriter was known. The group revisits classics such as Soft Cell's Tainted Love, Technotronic's Pump Up The Jam and Bon Jovi's You Give Love A Bad Name.

The Lost Fingers were born in 2004, when longtime friends and former

Quebec Conservatory of Music students Byron Mikaloff (guitars) and Christian Roberge (lead vocals) tinkered with Samantha Foxx's Touch Me while hearing it on the radio. Adding double-bassist Alex Morrisette, the trio recorded the song for what was to be a comeback album for the British pop star. The project fell through. The Lost Fingers moved on.

"It was serendipitous," the guitarist Mikaloff said. "We just laughed after Christian played this little arrangement. There was this exclamation point that came over our heads and we were like, 'We got it! We should do a tribute to the '80s.' We just dove into it."

The approach succeeded in their native province. Lost In The '80s went platinum in Quebec



The Lost Fingers' debut Lost In The '80s went platinum in Quebec and was nominated for the Juno Award for album of the year.

within 12 weeks of its release and held the No. 1 spot on the Quebec Top 200 for eight weeks. Juno Award nominations for fan choice award and album of the year brought the band national prominence.

"We're curious to see if English Canada will take it as a joke or get it the way people in Quebec got it," Mikaloff said. "What's hot there isn't what's hot here. There's a lot of Quebecers that don't get Nick-elback, whereas Albertans

dig it."

But Mikaloff is pretty optimistic about turning Anglophones onto their act, and introducing listeners to a less familiar genre to boot.

"People who see us might not be there to see us and they'll do this double take," Mikaloff said. "Then they'll recognize the song. You might hear some laughs at first then you see them getting into it. We're reaching people beyond jazz. This swing style is very rich."

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ER ends, or does it?

Just as ER ends its run, one of its alumni has booked a meaty new gig. Mekhi Phifer, who for six seasons walked the halls of County General as Dr. Gregory Pratt, has booked a multiple-episode appointment on Fox's Lie to Me. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Television

Genies touch down

Canadian celebrities strut through Ottawa this Saturday

TRACEY TONG
Metro Canada



The stars will be out in Ottawa this Saturday, but audiences from all over Canada can tune in when the best in Canadian film is celebrated at the Canada Aviation Museum.

Several hundred thousand people are expected to tune into the 29th annual Genie Awards, not only to see who walked away with the hardware, but to check out the some of Canada's most recognizable celebrities who are acting as the host and presenters, said Sara Morton, CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

"It's been a tremendous year," said Morton. "The slate of films nominated are quite diverse."

Although there's "no question that Canadian films face a challenge in terms of getting sufficient screen time," Morton said

Canadian film is becoming increasingly well received.

"They reflect a Canadian sensibility and a Canadian sense of humour, and they can be moving, thought provoking and extremely entertaining," she said.

The day before the awards, celebrities and industry representatives will be arriving in Ottawa by VIA rail from Montreal and Toronto, said Morton.

What at-home viewers will see in the 90-minute time slot will include coverage of the red carpet cocktail event before the awards, where celebrities will be photographed and interviewed, followed by the awards and comedic skits.

In addition to Canadian funnyman Dave Foley, who will act as host of the 2009 awards, actors Sarah Polley and Gordon Pinsent will act as presenters.

"I'm extremely honoured to host the Genie Awards, and I'm looking forward to

celebrating the achievements of my fellow Canadians in Ottawa," said Foley, a Kids in the Hall alum.

"As the host, we always seek someone who is well known, Canadian and someone who is humorous and can make it a fun evening," said Morton.

Other presenters include Éveline Gélinas (Necessities

of Life), Marianne Fortier (Mommy Is at the Hairdresser's), Kevin Newman from Global National and Karine Vanasse (Polytechnique).

The 29th annual Genie Awards will be held at the Canada Aviation Museum in Ottawa Saturday. The awards will be broadcast on Global and IFC at 9 p.m. ET/PT.



Kids in the Hall alumni Dave Foley will host the Genies this year.

FRIDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny		20/20
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Jeopardy! (N)	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		(10:01) Supernanny		Whistler
11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Evening News	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: The fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Flashpoint "Aisle 13" (N)		NUMB3RS
6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	Malcolm-Mid.	NUMB3RS "Blowback"		Howie Do It (N)		(10:01) Dollhouse (N)		News (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Spectacle: Elivs		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Flashpoint "Aisle 13" (N)		News (N)
36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		(10:01) Dollhouse (N)		Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Howie Do It (N)		Friday Night Lights (N)		Dateline NBC
55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Poker Asian Pacific Tour		WWE SmackDown!				Score Tonight
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Interruption	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Orlando Magic. (HDTV) (Live)				
16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Rush"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)				CSI: Miami
70	70	70	APTN	News (N)		Mixed Blessing	Fish Out	Rabbit Fall		Cellular *** (2004, Suspense) Kim Basinger.		
37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Chasing Wild Horses		Bravo! Fact		Get Shorty *** (1995, Comedy) John Travolta.		
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Good Morning	Corner Gas		The Simpsons		South Park
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Now Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Heli-Gongers (N)		Man vs. Wild "Namibia"		Forensic
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters		Extreme Living		Location, Loc.
46	46	46	HIST	Urban Legends	Urban Legends	NCIS "Witness"		Jurassic Fight Club		Urban Legends		Ice Road Truck
17	17	17	MM	On Set: T.I.	Redemption	T.I.'s Road to Redemption		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		Clueless *** (1995, Comedy)		
206	206	206	PIX	(6:20) The Man With the Golden Gun		Khaled * (2001, Drama), Michael Kanev		Durham County		A Soldier's Story *** (1984, Mystery)		
39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Testes		Kenny-Spenny		Webdreams
40	40	40	SLUCE	The Mom Show		Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part
21	21	21	TLT	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		Say Yes-Dress
22	22	22	W	Style by Jury		Will & Grace	Friends	The Closer (Part 2 of 2)		Bridget Jones's Diary *** (2001)		
27	27	27	YTV	iCarly		Family Biz		Nickelodeon's 22nd Annual Kids' Choice Awards (N)		Prank Patrol		Prank Patrol

SATURDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	World News Sat	Legend of the Seeker		Yours, Mine & Ours ** (2005, Comedy) Dennis Quaid.		Cupid		
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Pursued (2004, Suspense) Christian Slater, Gil Bellows.		Comedy Now (DVS)		Boys on Fringe		
11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey: Regional Coverage - Canadiens at Maple Leafs or Flyers at Senators						NHL Hockey
32	32	32	CBS	College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Semifinal		College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Semifinal						
6	6	6	CHIF	ET Canada	Masterminds	Stamp Fishery		29th Annual Genie Awards (N)		Masterminds		News (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	W-FIVE (N) (DVS)		Law & Order (HDTV)		ER Gals treats a young teen with alcohol poisoning.		News (N)		
36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops		America's Most Wanted		Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)		ER Gals treats a young teen with alcohol poisoning.		Law & Order		
55	55	55	SCOR	College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Semifinal		College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Semifinal						
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	Curling 2009 Ford World Men's Championship - Canada vs. Japan. From Moncton, N.B.			College Basketball: NCAA Tournament Semifinal		SportsCentre		
16	16	16	A&E	Paranormal	Paranormal	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Dead Zone"		CSI: Miami "Hard Time"		CSI: Miami
70	70	70	APTN	Cooking With M	MYTV	The Mix (N)		The Mix (N)		Living, Dream		Caesar and Cleopatra (2009, Comedy)
37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Video	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Spectacle: Elivs		Corner Gas		Blue Collar TV
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Black in America		The Simpsons		South Park
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Newsroom		Destroyed		Time Warp		Comedy-Roast
38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Cash Cab		The Detonators		Million Dollar Listing		Newsroom
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Sarah Cottage		HGTV's Top 10		Extreme-Home
46	46	46	HIST	Sinking-Athabaskan		NCIS "Twisted Sister"		Crime Stories		Elizabeth *** (1998, Historical Drama)		Crisis Angel
17	17	17	MM	T.I.'s Road to Redemption		Clueless *** (1995, Comedy) Alicia Silverstone.		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		MuchMusic Ctdn		
206	206	206	PIX	(6) Scarface	(7:45) Ocean's Eleven *** (1960, Comedy-Drama) Frank Sinatra.			XIII (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer, Stephen McHattie.		Pursuit-Happy.		
39	39	39	SHOW	Pursuit-Happy	Trailer Park	Mutant X "Altered Ego"		Real Housewives OC		Project Runway Canada		Matchmaker
40	40	40	SLUCE	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Table for 12		Table for 12		Little People		My First Home
21	21	21	TLT	Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		Sense and Sensibility *** (1995, Comedy-Drama) Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman.		Pride & Prejudice *** (2005, Drama)				Prank Patrol
22	22	22	W	Kid vs. Kat		League-Evil		Prank Patrol		Prank Patrol		Prank Patrol

SUNDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC News	Funnest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
7	7	7	ASN	Greek		Funnest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Cold Case		Medium
11	11	11	CBC	Cirque du Soleil: Kooza	(HDTV)	60 Minutes		Diamonds (2009, Drama) James Purefoy, Derek Jacobi.		The 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards (HDTV) (Live)		CBC News
32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	News (N)	(8:01) Brothers & Sisters		The Simpsons		Family Guy		The Simpsons
6	6	6	CHIF	16:9 Picture	King of the Hill	Playing for Keeps (2009, Docudrama), Roger Cross (DVS)		The Simpsons		Family Guy		The Simpsons
9	9	9	CJCH	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	American Dad		The Simpsons		Family Guy		The Simpsons
36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case "Yo, Adrian"		Dateline NBC (N)		Kings "Insurrection" (N)		The Celebrity Apprentice (N)		Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Score Update		BodogFight		Strikeforce		Poker
55	55	55	SCOR	The WWE Experience		World Men's Championship - Canada vs. China. From Moncton, N.B.						
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	Curling 2009 Ford World Men's Championship - Canada vs. China. From Moncton, N.B.							
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos
70	70	70	APTN	Great Towns	MYTV	The Mix		Arbor Live		In the Blue Ground (1999, Drama) Tina Keeper.		
37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elivs		Arts & Minds		Curvball: W.P. Kinsella		A Beautiful Mind (2001, Biography)		
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Laughs		The Simpsons		South Park
18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		Black in America		Stephen Hawking-Theory		MythBusters
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	House Hunters		House Hunters		My First Place		Buy Me
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		NCIS "Smoked"		My First Place		Extreme Makeover: Home		Hidden Potential
46	46	46	HIST	Battlefield Mysteries		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		Paris Hilton's British Friend		Training Day *** (2001, Crime Drama)		
17	17	17	MM	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		(8:20) The Great White Hope (1996)		Thirteen Ghosts * (2001, Horror)		Tila Tequila		
206	206	206	PIX	(6:30) Reindeer Games *** (2000)		The Guard (HDTV)		XIII (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer, Stephen McHattie.		Damages		
39	39	39	SHOW	Pursuit-Happy	Trailer Park	End of Leash		Tori & Dean		Real Housewives NYC		Style-Famous
40	40	40	SLUCE	Last 10		Identical: Perilous Pregnancy		I Didn't Know I Was Pregnant		I Didn't Know I Was Pregnant		Know-Pregnant
21	21	21	TLT	Extreme Forensics		While My Pretty One Sleeps ** (1997, Suspense)		SpongeBob		Prank Patrol		Prank Patrol
22	22	22	W	(5) Pride & Prejudice (2005)		Air Buddies (2006, Comedy) Patrick Cranshaw.		In Real Life				
27	27	27	YTV									

Lifetime picks up Project Runway

TV U.S. reality TV show Project Runway will air on cable network Lifetime Television after show producer The Weinstein Co. agreed to pay NBC Universal to move the series from its Bravo cable network.

The show — where fashion designers compete for money to launch their own clothing line — has been one of Bravo's top-rated shows.

But in April last year, Weinstein Co. said it was taking Project Runway to Lifetime in an agreement that Weinstein Co. valued at about \$200 million over five years.

NBC Universal, which owns Bravo, sued Weinstein Co., run by brothers Bob and Harvey Weinstein, claiming NBC and Bravo had the right of first refusal for future episodes and any spinoffs.

Lifetime Networks, which targets women and is owned by Hearst Corp and The Walt Disney Co., then counter-sued in November, creating a legal entanglement that potentially threatened to derail the show altogether.

However, NBC Universal, The Weinstein Company and Lifetime have resolved their disputes.

REUTERS

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22 movies&entertainment

Nolan's Dark Knight follow-up

Christopher Nolan's follow-up to *The Dark Knight* is a still-under-wraps sci-fi action film called *Inception*, but he's lining up a rather spiffy cast to fill out his line-up: Marion Cotillard, Cillian Murphy and Ellen Page are all in talks to star. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1

Karen O

ARTIST The charismatic frontwoman of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs is on a roll. Her band has just released *It's Blitz*, an album that's garnering rave reviews from media critics that matter. She's also scored the music for Spike Jonze's upcoming film, *Where The Wild Things Are*. Proof enough that when it comes to Gen Y hip-dom, she's still the reigning queen.



2

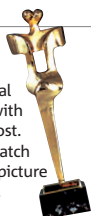
Virtual parties

TREND Crank up the media player and shake your little mouse, it's online party time. The phenomenon, in which someone creates a web forum where people can post homemade videos or present gag gifts to celebrate an occasion, is catching on fast. Apparently, several hundred birthday-related domains are registered each month at GoDaddy.com, a website that sells them for \$1.99 US and up.

3

Genies

AWARDS Canadian film industry's annual bash comes to life Saturday in Ottawa with Kids in the Hall veteran Dave Foley as host. *The Necessities of Life* is the movie to watch out for — it has eight nominations including best picture and best director. Show airs on Global at 9 p.m. ET.



4

Ask Arthur Frommer & Travel Better, Cheaper, Smarter

BOOK With the recession upon us and summer around the corner, travel bugs can now turn to the original guru of budget tourism for a little advice. This book is packed with wallet-friendly tips (e.g. how to find the best airfares online), along with many other enthusiastic recommendations.



5

Myspace previews Neil Young

MUSIC You're never too old to get tech-savvy. Members of the online community can now stream the Canadian rock legend's upcoming album *Fork in the Road* before it hits stores Tuesday.



6

Harper's Island

TELEVISION The premise for this chilling whodunit is simple: A group of friends and family visit the titular island for a wedding only to find a maniacal killer in their midst and a rising body count. The production promises a new victim every week in the 13-episode thriller, which begins on Global Thursday at 10 p.m. ET.

7

Adventureland

FILM Superbad director Greg Mottola returns to laughs-land with the semi-autobiographical story of a college graduate's trials and tribulations in a run-of-the-mill amusement park. Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart and Ryan Reynolds star, propped by several house-of-Judd-Apatow regulars. Falco's *Rock Me Amadeus* underlines the soundtrack. We smell a hit.

Mix of Six

Celebrate With The Stars

When: Friday to Sunday
Where: Dresden Row Market
With this being the International Year of Astronomy, the Royal Society of Canada Halifax Centre is hosting a Celebrate With The Stars event that includes a session on using a telescope Sunday at 2 p.m.

Symphony Nova Scotia

When: Sunday, 2 p.m.
Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium
Jamie Sommerville, principal horn with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and music director of the Hamilton Philharmonic, is joining our symphony for a performance.

Trelawney of the Wells

When: Through Saturday
Where: Sir James Dunn Theatre
The Dalhousie Theatre Department is presenting its latest production, which closes out with a matinee and evening performance.

David Wilcox

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Schooner Room
The blues-rock guitar wizard is coming to Casino Nova Scotia for what no doubt will be an electric performance. Wilcox has enjoyed 20 years in the music business.

Monte Carlo Night

When: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Compass Room, Casino Nova Scotia
Halifax recording artist Jon Mullane is the headliner for this Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Foundation fundraiser.

Amateur Bodybuilding

When: Saturday
Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium
It's time for the Nova Scotia Amateur Bodybuilding Championships. The cost is \$26.

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Gaming industry gets boost

Recession has many turning to home entertainment

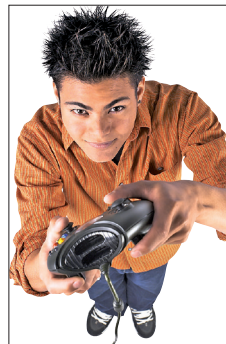
As people cut back on travel and going out, they are turning more to home entertainment, providing a boost to the video game industry that is under pressure to keep gamers amused and beat the recession.

Analyst Toon van Beeck from industry market research firm IbisWorld said video game industry revenue is set to reach \$41.9 billion this year, having risen from \$27.2 billion in 2004, with over 37 million consoles sold in the United States alone in 2008.

A new report from IbisWorld said the introduction of Nintendo's Wii had helped bolster the industry by changing the face of video gamers, bringing in more female players who now make up 38 per cent of the gaming demographic.

"Video game sales have been impacted the least from the global recession and there are no real signs of it slowing," said Michael Cai, vice president of video game research at Interpret.

"In order to maintain this healthy growth momentum, however, the gaming industry needs to continue providing ap-



In the first two months of the year, U.S. videogame sales rose 11 per cent.

pealing content and innovative experiences to compete for consumers' entertainment time and share of wallet."

Cai expected used games and value-priced games to take a greater share of total sales in this economic environment.

Last fall, as the effects of the economic downturn were being felt, video game sales rose internationally. In the United States alone, sales increased 19 per cent over 2007, topping \$21.3 billion, according to The NPD Group.

In January and February

Age of gamers

• According to the Entertainment Software Association, gamers are getting older. The average game player today is 35 years old and has been gaming for 13 years.

REUTERS

this year, U.S. videogame sales rose 11 per cent to \$2.81 billion, according to The NPD Group.

Billy Pidgeon, video game analyst at IDC, said the recession would clearly reduce consumer spending but games provided strong entertainment value and performed well as a category in a recession.

"What this means is that games will see double digit growth in North America and worldwide, but that gamers will consider purchases more carefully," said Pidgeon.

"Gaming enthusiasts will demand quality games and will not buy games that are considered second rate. The mainstream consumer will also buy fewer games but will be less savvy about quality."

REUTERS

Disney buys Kaboose websites

Disney boosted its ability to attract Internet-surfing parents of small children on Wednesday by purchasing the U.S. assets of Canadian company Kaboose. Disney paid about \$18.4 million for several websites, including Kaboose.com. **HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

Music

Metallica readies for rock hall

It seems that Metallica will be a two-bassist band at Saturday's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Cleveland.

A day after former bassist Jason Newsted told Billboard.com that his replacement, Robert Trujillo, would not take part in the performance part of the induction, a spokesman for the group's Warner Bros. label clarified that "Jason and Robert will both be playing Metallica's induction songs." He did not indicate what the songs would be or if Newsted and Trujillo would be on stage together or separately.

Metallica is flying in from Paris, where the group played last night with plans to rehearse with Newsted at sound check today.

Earlier this week, Newsted — who was Metallica's



Metallica will join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Saturday.

ca's bassist from 1986-2001 — said that when Lars Ulrich called to invite him to play at the ceremony, the drummer told him

that "Robert's not gonna play at all ... He wants to be there as a fan, too, and wants to see the 'black' album (1991's Metallica)

band." Newsted added that he never expected to play in the first place and was "totally on board" with the idea of the current version of Metallica performing without him. "I felt strongly they should go as that band and represent because ... they're strong right now together," Newsted said. "There was no negativity, no hubbub or jealousy or silly, childish ... It was years ago, man. We're just gonna have a ... great celebration."

Metallica's fellow inductees on Saturday include Run-DMC, Jeff Beck, Little Anthony & the Imperials and Bobby Womack in this year's Hall of Fame class. Wanda Jackson is being inducted as an Early Influence, while Sidemen inductees include Bill Black, DJ Fontana and Spooner Oldham.

REUTERS

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— J. Askenberg



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Everything Gina ever wanted...

Gina Gershon will star as a greedy social climber in *Everything She Ever Wanted*, a four-hour Lifetime miniseries. The project, based on Ann Rule's book, stars Gershon and Ryan McPartlin, of NBC's *Chuck*, as her husband. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment

Howie Beck's new tunes take a cheerful turn

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada



Sometimes you have to get lost to find something. For Howie Beck, it was music.

The Toronto-based singer-songwriter has returned with *How To Fall Down In Public*, his first full-length album in almost five years. The disc departs from what

fans and critics have typically come to expect from Beck.

While the personal melancholy still exists in his lyrics, the musical tone has taken a cheerful turn with buoyant rhythms and bubbly acoustic strings accompanied by urban and pastoral sound effects (crickets chirping and horse hooves clomping on one song, as an example.)

Birthing the album, a process Beck describes as "getting out of my comfort zone," came after a lengthy self-imposed exile to Paris in search of some inspiration, and to play with long-time friend and co-producer Gonzales. New surroundings gave him the spark he needed to put pen to paper.

"I had written some stuff that I wasn't really happy with," Beck said. "For me,

Paris was perfect. There's total anonymity there, and there was something very liberating about spending that time by myself. Half the time I'd look up and I wouldn't know where I was: I'd be thinking about music and lyrics all day."

Recording the album also proved initially difficult for Beck, who co-produced and played every instrument. In recent years, he has collabo-

rated with the likes of Hayden and Sarah Harmer on their respective projects, and wore the production hat on Jason Collett's last two albums. Mastering and editing your own work can be tricky business, he notes, and Beck felt the tension of sitting on both sides of the glass. But a little help from his old pal went a long way.

"Gonzales was a pretty big part of the process for

me," he said. "When I produce, those two sides of producer and musician flow easily. When I'm a musician first, it can be very frustrating. I have no objectivity there. But it was about getting away from the usual and challenging the way I think about recording my own music, instead of just, 'Meh, I'll try this, I'll try that.' This time, it was like a switch that flicked."

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Contact Krista Rodgers at 421-5861 and krista.rodgers@metronews.ca. Metro Halifax reaches all across the Metro area: Halifax Peninsula, Bedford, Spryfield and Cole Harbour.

When asked whether there's any truth to the breakup rumours dogging Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson these days, the 22-year-old actress answered unequivocally. "Those rumours aren't true," Lohan told E! News. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Brit's courtroom drama deepens

COURTS It seems Britney Spears' life has gone from soap opera to spy novel, people.com reports.

Sam Lutfi's younger sister Christina testified in a Los Angeles court Wednesday that she recently snuck a cellphone to the pop star at a Beverly Hills hotel — a plan allegedly hatched by Spears herself.

Spears, 27, whose phone access is strictly limited by her father Jamie, had initially called Lutfi's cellphone number in mid-January to speak with Christina.

"(Britney) told me she wanted to get a hold of Sam," said Christina, 25, whose brother had once been Spears' manager. "She wanted him to help her find a lawyer, and wanted someone to get a prepaid cellphone to her. She was scared because her father was blackmailing her with visitation rights over her kids."

Spears allegedly told Christina to meet her on the fifth floor gym of the Peninsula Hotel on Jan. 16. When Christina arrived, Spears was working out

with her mother while a bodyguard stood nearby. But they met in a sauna where Christina gave her a phone, saying it was from Sam and ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib, which Spears then

hid in a locker. "She asked me, 'Will Sam be able to help me?'" Christina added.

The phone, however, was later discovered by Spears' security team and confiscated from her purse. Earlier on Wednesday, Blair Berk, a lawyer for Jamie Spears, testified that Brit-

ney "was in such fear (of Sam), she asked if I could get him arrested, to keep him away from her." As for a purported recording of the pop star circulating the internet in which she allegedly asks for a lawyer's help in ending her father's legal control, Berk said the singer repeatedly denied she was seeking outside legal help. Berk also expressed doubt in the recording's authenticity.

For more than a year, a probate court has ruled that Spears "lacks the capacity" to hire any lawyers

on her own.

The ongoing hearing is to determine whether to extend a restraining order against Lutfi, 34, whom Spears' father alleges is harassing his daughter and is conspiring to disrupt his legal control over her life.

Lutfi's attorney, Bryan Freedman, has denied his client has committed any wrongdoing. Closing arguments in the restraining order case will be heard on April 21. Lutfi is forbidden to have contact with her until then.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Miley can't even appease Obama

PEOPLE Apparently your dad being president is enough to get the Jonas Brothers to come play a private concert for you, but it's not enough to get a sneak peek at Hannah Montana: The Movie.

The film's star, Miley Cyrus, tells Access Hollywood that Malia and Sasha Obama wanted to get a look at her new movie before anyone else, but Cyrus said no. "They want me to send them a copy, so we will," Cyrus says. "But, like everyone else, they have to wait till April 10. Even the president."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Salma dishes on motherhood

PEOPLE Salma Hayek says waiting to have a baby made her a better mother, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

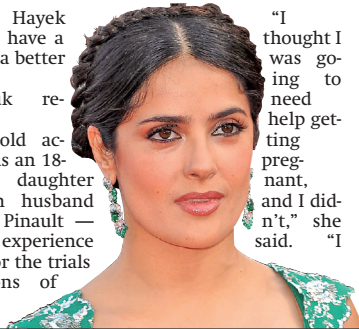
The 42-year-old actress — who has an 18-month-old daughter Valentina with husband Francois-Henri Pinault — thinks her life experience prepared her for the trials and tribulations of parenthood.

"I thought I was going to need help getting pregnant, and I didn't," she said. "I

feel that I've done enough things in life where I can appreciate the time I spend with her as my number one priority and not feel I'm missing out on something. I feel I'm a lot more patient."

"I'm a more fulfilled human being now, and I probably wouldn't have been 10 years ago. She gets a better mother for being born now."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Paris ditches money-grubbing BFF

PEOPLE Paris Hilton has apparently ditched her best friend forever, Brittany Flickinger, because Hilton believes she was just using her. Flickinger, who came out on top on the reality show Paris Hilton's My New BFF, was just "another one of these girls using Paris to get famous," a source tells Life and Style Weekly.

"They haven't spoken in two months. All that girl wanted was the free trips, the goodie bags, staying at Paris' mansion and the par-

ties and clubs. She was desperate for money."

In other Hilton family news, Paris' 19-year-old brother, Barron Hilton, says he's tired of the

party lifestyle. "I want to be an international singer-songwriter," he tells Page Six. "I'm sick of all the Hilton stuff, where all anyone cared about was whether I was doing coke in the bathroom."

Barron says he's also developing a reality series with Viacom documenting his attempt to launch his music career. "It's gonna be like The Hills, but real," he says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Travis, Shanna hit the skids again

RELATIONSHIPS Travis Barker and Shanna Moakler have split up — again. The couple, who reconciled a few months ago, reportedly got into such a nasty fight that the police were called, though no charges were filed.

"Travis confronted Shanna about her having an affair

with Gerard Butler while he was in the hospital" recovering from the plane crash he survived late last year, a source tells Us Weekly. Moakler's rep confirmed: "They did break up, but Shanna never cheated on Travis while he was in the hospital."

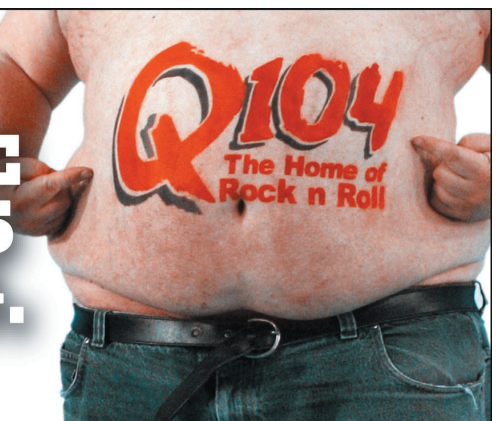
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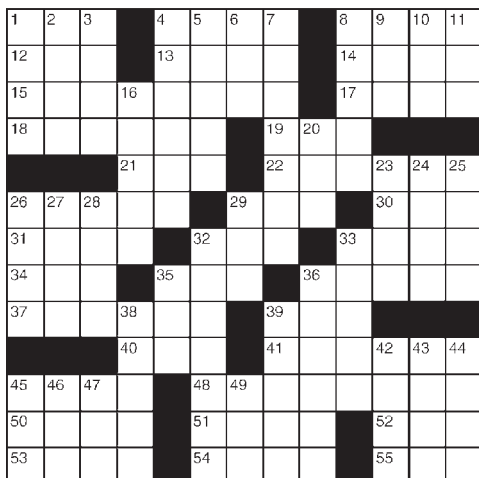




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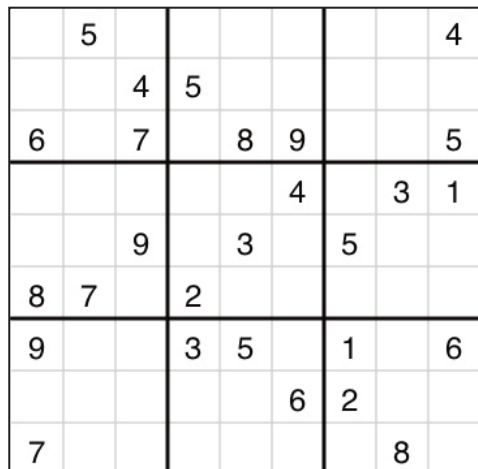
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Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



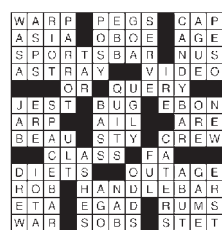
Crossword across

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Vacationing | 22 "Sex for Dummies" writer | 40 Moray, for one |
| 4 Told a tale | 26 Eccentric | 41 Dermatologist's case |
| 8 React in pain | 29 Attention get-ter | 45 Sail support |
| 12 Romanian money | 30 Vast expanse | 48 "A Study in Scarlet" narrator |
| 13 Between jobs | 31 Libertine's feeling | 50 Head light? |
| 14 Competent | 32 Foundation | 51 — and termin-er |
| 15 Stevenson's personification of good | 33 Minus | 52 Expert |
| 17 Leave at the altar | 34 Mound stat | 53 Unimprovable place |
| 18 Whine | 35 Monkey suit | 54 Money |
| 19 E.T.'s carrier? | 36 Circumference | 55 Longing |
| 21 Under the weather | 37 Oprah adviser | |
| | 39 Wambaugh or Wapner (Abbr.) | |

Crossword down

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Automaker | 20 Saute | 39 "You Were Meant for Me" singer |
| 2 Spore producer | 23 Addict | 42 Catch sight of |
| 3 Honshu mountain | 24 Criterion | 43 Additional |
| 4 Probable | 25 Scrambled eggs side dish | 44 Any time now |
| 5 Pastoral opus | 26 Coaster | 45 That girl |
| 6 Blueprint addition | 27 Kitten's sound | 46 Cushion |
| 7 Tricked | 28 Now, on a memo | 47 Ginger — |
| 8 Collegian's choice | 29 Whammy | 49 Reuben holder |
| 9 Sapporo sash | 32 Edition sold the night before | |
| 10 The whole enchilada | 33 "Hungaria" composer | |
| 11 Bottom line | 35 Dead heat | |
| 16 Oust | 36 Kid's racer | |
| | 38 Egret's cousin | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	9	1	7	6	2	4	5	3
7	6	2	4	3	5	9	1	8
3	4	5	9	1	8	6	2	7
9	7	6	5	2	4	3	8	1
5	1	3	6	8	7	2	9	4
4	2	8	3	9	1	7	6	5
1	8	4	2	7	6	5	3	9
2	5	9	1	4	3	8	7	6
6	3	7	8	5	9	1	4	2

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 minGenius
13-17 minScholar
17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ minKeep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Lemon-Glazed Flounder Fillets

INGREDIENTS:

5 large lemons
6 large fresh basil leaves
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
1 garlic clove, minced
4 flounder fillets
1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
1/4 tsp (1 ml) pepper

SAUCE:

1/2 cup (125 ml) reduced-sodium chicken broth
1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) cornstarch
2 tsp (10 ml) sugar

METHOD:

1. Roll 1 lemon on countertop to get juices flowing; grate zest from this lemon and squeeze juice. Cut 3 lemons into 12 1/4-in. (0.5 cm) slices. Slice remaining lemon into 8 wedges. Make basil chiffonade: stack basil leaves and roll up tightly. Slice thinly and set aside as garnish. Heat oil in small pot over medium heat. Add garlic and cook until golden, 2 minutes. Whisk in lemon juice and remove from heat.
2. Coat grill rack or broiler pan rack with non-stick cooking spray. Preheat grill or broiler to medium. Lightly brush both sides of fish with garlic mixture

and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place 3 lemon slices on grill or broiler rack and put one flounder fillet on top. Repeat with remaining lemon slices and fish. Grill or broil without turning, until just opaque throughout, 6 minutes. Cook lemon wedges alongside until browned, 2 minutes per side.

3. Meanwhile, blend broth and cornstarch in cup until smooth. Whisk cornstarch mixture, sugar and 1/4 tsp (1 ml) lemon zest into remaining garlic mixture. Boil over medium-high heat and cook until sauce thickens, 1 minute.
4. Transfer fish to plates, lemon slices down. Spoon sauce over fish and sprinkle with basil chiffonade and remaining lemon zest. Garnish with grilled lemon wedges.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

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Horoscopes

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You'll bid farewell to a crazy fantasy. People are at ease despite unreliable mechanical objects. Tone down any frivolous behaviour.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Nothing is ever as bad as it seems. A corny guy will be left in the lurch. A neurotic person lets loose in public.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Your mood improves when someone admires you. You might forget about a very sad story. You'll reap what you've sown.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone lets fear keep them from talking. Be available for a cheated friend. Pay attention to warnings.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Sincere attention inspires fresh discussions. Someone's illness troubles you. Double check everything that you're told.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A modest man has the guts to swear an oath. Love isn't for those who are unprepared. Don't feel sorry for yourself.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Instability and insecurity are somewhat unnerving. Superior self-discipline helps you fulfill a routine. Fresh projects begin taking shape.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Remain calm in regard to social ambitions. You'll get what you believe in. Long-repressed brilliance finally bursts out.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Precious moments cheer you up. Bizarre events will force you to call friends. Something isn't working, but this will change.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
What you did comes back to bless you. The temperature rises as a flirtation heats up. Infatuation gives some thrills and spills.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A friend has not turned his back on you. Boredom dissipates when you discuss leadership. A manager is very exasperating.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Someone causes mayhem with fiscal changes. Wait until enthusiasm is higher for week-end plans. An encounter with a coward lightens the mood.

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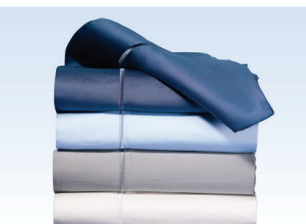
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